

Royal couple visit youngest victim as Brittan steps up security

Newman puts 700 more police on bomb watch

More police are to be deployed on anti-terrorist duties in central London, in the wake of the Harrods bombing...

Police believe the IRA may have reserved a space for the car bomb by parking another car there earlier...

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Police vehicles patrolling 24 hours a day to respond specifically to bomb threats anywhere in Metropolitan London...

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The Prime Minister's husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, went Christmas shopping at Harrods yesterday...

Mr Brittan told an impressive united Commons that Sir Kenneth's measures for the public's greater protection would include 64 more dog handlers...

detention of suspected terrorists, saying that there had been more murders when there was more vigilance...

Mr Brittan in his statement to the Commons said that public vigilance was essential to give full effect to the increased security measures...

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Labour spokesman, decided that the clearest demonstration of support for the efforts of the police and the Home Secretary was to ask no questions...



Youngest victim: The Princess of Wales at St Thomas's Hospital yesterday, chatting to Rajan Parmar, aged five, whose leg was injured in the Harrods bomb attack.

I apologize on behalf of London, says prince

By Alan Hamilton

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday went to two London hospitals to visit victims of Saturday's Knightsbridge bomb attack...

Mr Brittan was as scornful as Mr Brittan of the IRA, "evil men who, characteristically and contemptuously, seek to creep away from the consequences of their inhumanity..."

Like Mr Brittan, Mr Kaufman appeared to speak for everyone in the Chamber...

Few political points were made. Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, lamented the failure of Britain and Ireland to sort out their relationship...

Mr Brittan said that Mr Hume was right to draw attention to the wider dimension, but it was right to make clear that what happened on Saturday would do nothing towards a solution.

Arafat prepares for dawn evacuation

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

Mr Vassir Arafat's 4,000 guerrillas under siege in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli prepared for a dawn evacuation today...

Despite thelachrymose predictions of Mr Arafat that the Israeli Navy would block his ship's evacuation...

On the other side of the wharf an already-damaged vessel had sunk miserably on to the seabed...

The condition of Sergeant Andrew Melham, in the intensive care unit of St Thomas's Hospital, was reported to "stable"...

At Westminster Hospital the royal couple met Mr Mark McDonald, an American geologist who was one of the most seriously injured civilians...

At St Thomas's Hospital Sergeant Melham was too ill to see the royal couple, but they met PC Holgate, recovering from his third bomb incident...

Some bomb victims would be "totally maimed for life", a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Westminster Hospital, Mr Paul Aichroth, said yesterday...

Nakasone will have narrow majority

By Omr Foreign Staff

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, looked certain last night to have a narrow working majority after the sharp rebuff to his Liberal Democratic Party in Sunday's general election...

It was clear that Mr Nakasone would take enough Independents into his party to assure LDP control of the premiership...

He flew in from Riyadh, where he had talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Foreign Minister...

Mr Arafat also insisted that his guerrillas would be handing over their heavy weapons - anti-aircraft guns, recoilless rifles and Katyusha rocket batteries - to the Lebanese internal security force...

Mr Arafat failed to obtain the necessary papal annulment of his previous marriage to M Philippe Junot...

Signor Casiraghi is the youngest of four children of what is reputed to be one of the richest families in Italy...

The Casiraghis also have a house at St Jean Cap Ferrat.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

- House... Full details of the rate-capping Bill... sturgeon... What to do with caviare by The Times cook... Bells... Wednesday Page looks at the upsurge in obscene telephone calls...



Judge jails child sex man

Judge Brian Gibbens sentenced a man who had intercourse with a friend's daughter, aged seven, to two years' imprisonment...

Challenge over cancelled rig

British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard will challenge yesterday's cancellation by a British-led consortium of an £60m oil rig...

Europe's cash

The EEC's £15.5bn budget, approved by the Parliament last week, will be adopted today as the Council of Ministers lodges a last-minute protest...

Pay-cut theory

A reduction of 10 per cent in teenagers' average wages could create an extra 70,000 to 100,000 jobs for young people, a research paper says...

Eagle-eyed

Washington is preparing a review of Soviet violations of arms control agreements to be presented to Congress early in the new year...

Jobless 'decline'

Unemployment no longer seems to be rising and may even be falling, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, told the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee...

Habsburg theory

Crown Prince Rudolf, believed to have committed suicide with his lover at Mayerling, Austria, in 1889, was murdered according to Habsburg family papers...

Transplant fear

The condition of Mr Lars Ljungberg, aged 32, Britain's first heart-lung transplant patient, was causing "grave concern", doctors at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, said...

Spy chief quits

Mr John Ryan, Australia's espionage chief, has resigned after a bungled training exercise when agents wearing carnival masks ran amuck in a Melbourne hotel...

Police vehicles patrolling 24 hours a day to respond specifically to bomb threats anywhere in Metropolitan London...

The Prime Minister's husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, went Christmas shopping at Harrods yesterday...

Mr Brittan told an impressive united Commons that Sir Kenneth's measures for the public's greater protection would include 64 more dog handlers...

Mr Brittan added that particular care had also been taken to ensure that policing against terrorist threats was fully maintained elsewhere in the London area...

The possible proscription of Sinn Fein was one of several questions briefly considered when Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Brittan and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, met for 40 minutes at 10 Downing Street...

Mrs Thatcher asked for the arguments to be set out again for the Cabinet, which at its weekly meeting on Thursday is expected to review the whole range of possible political and physical measures to contain the Provisional IRA unit which killed five people at Harrods...

Yesterday, hundreds of policemen, backed by a £250,000 reward offer, continued the search for the bombers, Commander William Huckleby, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, said he was now considering the theory that two cars could have been used...

Mr Huckleby said the first car would have been driven into Hans Crescent some time on Saturday morning and parked at a meter. Just after midday the Austin 1300 GT arrived and took its place...

Police now know, from one of the policemen in a police car which pulled up behind the Austin before it exploded, that the 1300 was parked in the wrong direction, facing towards Brompton Road...

The Yard hopes members of the public in the crescent may have seen the exchange. It is also possible that details of parked cars could have been kept by traffic wardens or police since the area is always subject to strict parking controls...

Yesterday Mr Huckleby disclosed that the police have gone some way in tracing the Austin, which was originally registered in Leicester in 1972, and have interviewed two car dealers. The car, registration KFP 252K, was sold by one dealer to another just over a month ago in London...

Mr Huckleby said the second dealer sold the car from his showroom and police are still trying to discover what happened to it between then and last Saturday...

As statements come in from Harrods staff, the staff of other shops in Hans Crescent and the hundreds of people shopping there on Saturday, the Yard has brought in a large desk-top computer to keep pace with the detail from witnesses...

Saturday a staff of more than two dozen has been working round the clock to keep pace with the flow of information manually and the computer will allow for their release elsewhere...

Assistant Commissioner Gilbert Kelland, head of London CID, said that the Yard had accepted the offer of a £250,000 reward made by an anonymous businessman for information leading to the capture of the bombers...

At the weekend senior staff at the Yard began drawing up plans for the extra patrols announced by the Home Secretary yesterday. The normal eight-hour shifts have been extended to provide more manpower, and leave is likely to be cancelled...

The Yard has also asked motorists to consider not driving into central London this week and using public transport instead, so that the risk of suspected vehicles can be reduced...

In past years the Yard has responded to IRA campaigns by making the police presence on the streets of central London very visible. Yesterday there were already signs of an increasing number of foot patrols, with officers in twos and threes among shoppers and office staff in the West End and Whitehall...

Two cars theory in hunt for Harrods killers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Provisional IRA unit which killed five people at Harrods may have reserved a space for their car bomb by parking another vehicle in the row of parking bays alongside the store hours before the explosion...

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Princess Caroline to marry

From Diana Geddes Paris

Princess Caroline of Monaco, aged 26, is to marry Signor Stefano Casiraghi, 23-year-old son of an Italian businessman...

The prince and princess had a brief private meeting with PC Gordon before meeting other civilians, including Mr Robert Brown, a stockbroker who suffered a broken arm and severe shrapnel wounds...

At St Thomas's Hospital Sergeant Melham was too ill to see the royal couple, but they met PC Holgate, recovering from his third bomb incident...

Some bomb victims would be "totally maimed for life", a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Westminster Hospital, Mr Paul Aichroth, said yesterday...

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Marks & Spencer breaks with family tradition

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

Mr Michael Marks who, with Mr Thomas Spencer, founded the business in Leeds in 1884. Born Marcus Sieff, the son of the late Lord Sieff (formerly Israel Sieff), he was educated at Manchester Grammar School, St Paul's and Corpus Christi, Cambridge...

He joined the family business 48 years ago and was appointed to the board in 1955. He became chairman 11 years ago when the annual turnover was £417m. It is now £2,500m. Services to exports earned him his knighthood in 1971 and he became a life peer in 1980. In 1976 he was Hambro's businessman of the year, and was presented with the International Retailer of the Year Award in New York earlier this year...

Yesterday he was at his desk early, took a board meeting, went to a business lunch and, according to fellow directors, planned to go on his regular round of some of the stores. He has described his methods like this: "It is not state visits. It is listen and learn at store level. It is the sales staff and supervisors who know what is going on..."

Mr John Salisse, a fellow director, said of Lord Sieff yesterday: "He has terrific drive and leadership. The growth of the company has been phenomenal under his leadership. He played a major role in getting the company into Europe and Canada..."

The Sieff view has been that while Marks & Spencer may have grown into a formidable retailing chain, it must retain the point of view of the archetypal family shop, caring for staff and customers alike and taking price in what it sells. One of the keys to its success is its willingness to experiment...

Advertisement for Famous Grouse Scotch Whisky. It features a large illustration of a grouse standing on a branch, with a bottle of whisky and a glass of whisky below it. The text reads: 'THE FAMOUS GROUSE CRUSTY SCOTCH WHISKY... Quality in an age of change.'

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Pay cuts would create jobs for young people, report says

By Frances Williams

Cuts in young people's wages relative to adults would substantially improve their job opportunities, according to an official research paper from the Employment Department, published yesterday.

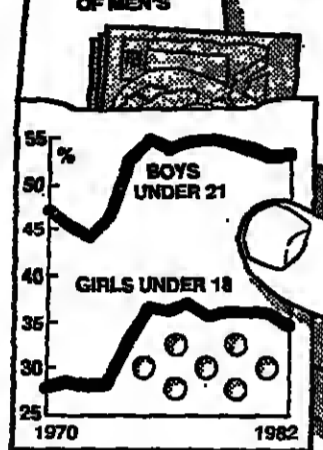
It suggests that for every 1 per cent cut in the relative wages of young people employment would rise by 2 per cent for boys and 1.5 to 2 per cent for girls. A pay reduction of 10 per cent - equivalent to about £6 a week on present average earnings of about £60 for workers under 18 - could thus create between 70,000 and 100,000 extra jobs.

Only one in five of these additional jobs would be new, however. The remainder would be directly replacing adult workers.

The study's findings, which contrast with the failure of earlier research to discover any firm link between pay and jobs

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EARNINGS

AS A PROPORTION OF MEN'S



for young people, support ministers' claims that low wages would enable young people "to price their selves into work".

But they do not support the view that excessive wages are to blame for the steep rise in unemployment rates among teenagers since 1979. Their relative earnings have fallen slightly since the mid-1970s, the study says. But employment prospects have suffered disproportionately from the impact of recession.

For every one per cent fall in overall employment the number of jobs available for young people drops by about 1.2 per cent, the department estimates and by more if special measures to relieve youth unemployment are discontinued.

Officials said yesterday that earlier studies had failed to uncover the connection between pay and jobs because they concentrated on the 1950s and 1960s when demand for labour was high and the relative wages of young people were low, although gradually rising. But from 1959 there was a sharp break in the pattern.

Between 1969 and 1977 boys' earnings as a proportion of men's jumped from 47 to 55 per cent while for girls the proportion rose from below 25 to 37 per cent. Unemployment rates among young people relative to adults soared from about average to more than three times the average.

Since 1977 the relative jobless rate has fallen to about twice the average.

The relative pay and employment of young people (William Wells, Department of Employment Research Paper No 42).

£250m snag to sale of ordnance plants

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced plans to reorganize the Royal Ordnance Factories, for which it may have to find £250m within the next year.

A Bill in the Commons yesterday will bring the 11 government-owned factories into a new organization under the Companies Act, thus paving the way for their privatization.

The policy is being resisted by the unions and the trades unions yesterday announced plans to hold a one-day strike in January.

If the Bill is approved by Parliament it is intended that the factories will be brought under their new status from October 1 next year. Employees would then cease to be civil servants, and among the pro-

visions which would have to be made would be the transfer of funds to cover their accumulated pension rights. These could amount to £250m.

That would have to be especially found by the Government because Civil Service pensions are paid for from current funds, and there is no single pension fund from which the money could be transferred.

That sum could turn out to be almost as much as will be raised later on by privatization.

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, said that the introduction of private capital could not begin before 1985. The Government may decide to retain a stake in the factories.

Bridge road 17 years old

The Severn bridge still retains its original 1966 road surface, and this is because of the immense difficulties of repair, a Labour MP said in the Commons last night.

Mr Roy Hughes, MP for Newport, East, said that road engineers had told him that resurfacing the bridge would be one of the hardest jobs they could be given. But he added the warning: "This will have to be tackled one day."

A Christmas cracker in El Salvador.

While you're merrily pulling crackers at Christmas, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala are being pulled apart by civil wars. Civil wars so brutal that they've already left 4 million people homeless and destitute. And orphaned countless thousands of children. The luckiest ones have escaped to Mexico and Honduras.

Only to find conditions in the shanty towns and refugee camps wretched beyond belief. They have survived a murderous civil war but without your help they may not survive Christmas or the New Year.

Their situation is desperate. We are doing all we can. Please send a donation. Now. No matter how little you can afford. Even the price of a Christmas cracker will help them.

OXFAM

Please send your donation to: Guy Stringer, Oxfam, Room TM28, Freepost, Oxford OX2 2BR.

Police life goes on at Chelsea station

By Alan Hamilton

On the roof of Chelsea police station, as on police stations all over London, the Union Jack flew at half mast yesterday in memory of the two officers killed by the Knightsbridge bomb.

Rarely, if ever, have the perils of the job struck so hard at a single station with two dead and thirteen injured, three of them critically.

As Monday morning's shift reported for work they found many officers who had been on duty almost continuously since Saturday afternoon. A sense of unmeted shock still prevailed over all.

"You feel a sense of loss when any officer is killed, but when it is your own station it is the loss of friends", Chief Insp Peter Francis, who had been on duty for 36 of the past 48 hours, said.

"This is a big station with 200 officers, but we have a small manor, which makes us all very close. Men have been appearing from their days off and their holidays; it is almost impossible to get them to go home."

"One of the advantages of a major incident like this is that there is too much to do to sit around and dwell on it. But our civilian staff in particular are quite distraught at the tragedy."

But the overriding feeling is one of determination. "We are carrying on as best we can", said one senior officer. "We cannot let the IRA succeed."

Superintendent Michael James, the station's deputy chief officer, shouldered the grim task on Saturday of visiting the families of the dead to break the news to them. The three critically injured officers are allowed only their families by their bedside, but the station is constantly in touch with the hospitals on their progress.

Throughout the weekend the station has been inundated with telephone and personal calls from the public offering sympathy and cash donations for the bereaved families.

Among yesterday's callers was Mr Aleck Craddock, managing director of Harrods.

Of the two who died, Sergeant Noel Lane, aged 28, had moved from Streatham to Chelsea only two months ago on his promotion. WPC Jane Arbuthnot, aged 22, had been at Chelsea throughout her two-and-a-half-year career in the police.

Mr Kenneth Hawkfield from Sussex, who has had an account



Harrods back in business

By Richard Dowden

Harrods opened on the stroke of nine yesterday morning but despite a brave face from the staff it was not quite business as usual.

The store was not deserted, but for a Monday morning before Christmas it was very, very quiet. Customers who came did so almost out of defiance.

They included the Prime Minister's husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, who said: "No damned Irish murderer is going to stop me going there". He returned to Downing Street carrying two of the store's distinctive green bags packed with presents.

Mr Kenneth Hawkfield from Sussex, who has had an account

at Harrods for more than 30 years, said he had no second thoughts about coming so soon after Saturday's bomb. "I do not think lightning strikes twice in the same place, but anyway I am not going to have my shopping upset like that", he said.

About 15 per cent of the store was closed but goods from those departments were available elsewhere. In the furniture department on the third floor there was a hum of vacuum cleaners and the occasional gritty click as a shard of glass was sucked up.

Outside glaziers were tapping at window frames and workmen were shovelling broken glass into a skip.

Mr Aleck Craddock, Harrods' managing director, said the bomb had cost the store more than £1m in damage and more in lost custom. But he added: "I am sure that customers will continue to come to Harrods. British people are like that."

"The store will be as normal as we can make it. We are going to make Harrods as Christmassy as possible."

Oxford Street, which was sealed off after a bomb scare on Saturday, was also relatively quiet. Police were patrolling in pairs every 20 yards. Security guards at some stores were searching handbags. Managers would not comment on the prospects for trade, but staff admitted they had never seen it so quiet.

Reaction to bombing Prior asks US to cut IRA cash

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday that Americans could help enormously to fight terrorism internationally by giving no further help to Noraid, the IRA's fund-raising organization, or other groups.

Speaking on the national breakfast television programme *Good Morning America*, Mr Prior said that one American had been killed and two others were injured in Saturday's car bomb explosion at Harrods in London.

"The fact is", he said, "there is a misconception among a number of people in the United States that they are supporting freedom fighters. They are doing nothing of the sort".

Mr Prior said money was being given in some cases on the basis that it was for widows and orphans.

"That is not what happens. It goes to buy arms to create the sort of attacks that have taken place in recent days."

Just before the broadcast began, the US interviewer, Barbara Walters, had asked Mr Prior if there was a particular question he wanted to answer. He specified Americans' attitude towards Noraid.

Mr Prior had a sharp reply to the IRA's apology over Saturday's attack. "That's what they always say when they carry out these attacks and they think it has been to their political advantage, they take the credit, but when something goes wrong and the reaction is one of shock and utter detestation, the IRA tries to dissociate itself from what happens."

Mr Martin Galvin, Noraid's spokesman, said in New York last night about the Harrods blast: "I regret the loss of life, but many Irish people have been killed by British occupation forces. I recognize the moral superiority of the IRA over the British Government" (Christopher Thomas writes from New York).

Adams denies rift in republican ranks

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, political wing of the Provisional IRA, yesterday denied there was a rift between the political and military wings of the movement.

He expressed regret for the Harrods bombing, but refused to condemn it.

But the MP for West Belfast said the organization never condoned civilian casualties, adding that the bomb was an example of an IRA operation that had "not gone right".

The admission by the Republican movement that the Harrods bombing had not been authorized by the "army council" is evidence that they have been embarrassed by the attack.

officials were expressing caution over calls to ban Provisional Sinn Fein. One official said: "It would give them a great Christmas bonus."

In spite of Sinn Fein's recent electoral successes, the IRA will continue to attack British soldiers during the coming year, according to a senior member of the organization whose secret strategy speech was broadcast on Granada Television's World in Action programme last night (David Cross writes).

The IRA speaker told last month's annual conference of Sinn Fein delegates in Dublin: "Our military successes and our political progress are of equal importance."

Bomb-hoax caller jailed

John Michael Daly, aged 23, an interior decorator, of Uxendon Hill, Wembley, London, was jailed for three months by Harrow magistrates yesterday after pleading guilty to making a bomb hoax call to Scotland Yard on Sunday night.

Also at Harrow, Gary Alan Coomber, aged 26, a London Transport cleaner, of Binyon Crescent, Stanmore, was remanded in custody until Friday charged with making a hoax call to British Telecom on Saturday. In Bristol, Michael Freye,

aged 19, a civil servant and Andrew Hurley, aged 20, a barnman, were remanded on bail until January 11 after admitting making a false call to a Bristol nightclub.

Strathclyde police are holding nine men under the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act after raids in Glasgow over the past two days.

Geoffrey Edwards, aged 25, a full-time private in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was charged in Belfast yesterday with the murder of Mr Peter Corrigan

Compromise agreed on electricity cost

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, confirmed in the Commons yesterday that the Electricity Council was looking at the possibility of a 2 per cent increase in domestic electricity prices next year and that an increase for industrial users was unlikely.

Four days after the Cabinet discussion on electricity prices, about which there were conflicting accounts, the shape of the compromise which it reached appeared to be agreed by all sides yesterday.

As reported in *The Times* on Friday, it was that instead of 3 per cent rise for domestic and industrial electricity, which the Treasury wanted, the Electricity Council should be asked to increase domestic prices by 2 per cent.

Mr Walker met Mr Philip Jones, the council's chairman, yesterday to inform him of what he later called in the Commons the Cabinet's suggestion. Mr

Jones undertook to discuss it with his 14 area chairmen and to report back to Mr Walker next month.

But Mr Walker made it clear to MPs that if Mr Jones said that the council did not want to put up prices, the Government did not plan legislation to compel it to do so.

If that happened it is clear that the only way Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor could get his way would be by increasing the sum it requires from the industry in loan repayments.

In the Commons, Labour MPs exploited the Cabinet division over the issue. Mr Stanley Orme, from the opposition front bench, said that Mr Walker should resign. But Mr Walker was backed from Mr David Rowell, a former energy minister whom Mrs Thatcher dropped from the Cabinet after the election.

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NGA can have cash to pay benefits

Commissioners holding National Graphical Association (NGA) funds seized for the union's contempt of court in the *Stockport Messenger* dispute are to be given permission to release enough money to allow the union to pay sickness and hardship benefits.

Mr Justice Eastham, the High Court judge who ordered the sequestration of the NGA's assets of an estimated £10m, said yesterday, however, that the commissioners had "quite rightly" required money the union had exported to Dublin to be reimported to England.

He was speaking in the High Court in Manchester, where the NGA's counsel, Mr Terence Rigby, yesterday applied for an application, asking for the terms of the writ of sequestration to be relaxed, to be adjourned.

Mr Rigby told the court the application for an adjournment to allow discussions to take place between the union and the

commissioners was made with the consent of the commissioners' counsel. Discussions would be taking place about disclosure of information about the union's assets, he said.

The judge, adjourning the application *Sine Die*, said he was "slightly unhappy" that an agreement had not already been reached. He said the court was anxious if possible to ensure that the union had sufficient funds exempt from the sequestration order to enable it to pay such things as sickness and hardship benefits "which at the moment of course they are not able to do".

The judge said the matter was going to be the subject of discussions between the commissioners and the union. He said: "The commissioners, for example, quite rightly require that the money exported to Dublin should be reimported to England. That will be one of the many matters to be discussed."

By-election allegations dismissed

Allegations that Mr David Maclean, Conservative MP for Penrith, was guilty of incurring illegal election expenses were dismissed by a High Court judge yesterday as "wholly misconceived".

Rejecting a claim by Lieutenant Commander Eric Morgan, aged 73, the Liberal Labour, Co-op candidate in the Penrith by-election in July, that the oath was void, Mr Justice Coryn said that his numerous complaints had been "magnified out of all proportion".

An accusation that Lord Whitelaw, who held the seat before entering the Lords, was guilty of "undue influence" and had impeded the election was, the judge said, "an enormous impertinence which should never have appeared, even in a misconceived petition such as this".

Mr Morgan, of Hollows, Matteredale, Cumbria, now faces a bill, likely to be several thousand pounds, for Mr Maclean's legal costs.

Women PCs 'minimize' psychology

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Policewomen see less value in using psychological techniques in policing than male officers, a survey by the British Psychological Society was told yesterday.

The finding, which was described as surprising by Mr Peter Ainsworth of the department of social administration at the Manchester University, may be due to the women believing they need a tough, ruthless approach to do well in male-dominated police forces, he suggested.

Alternatively they may rely on a "rational female" "intuitive" approach so they believe formal psychological techniques have little to offer.

The findings presented to the society's conference in London come from a relatively small study involving four police forces and 167 male and 23 female officers.

Under 14 per cent of the male officers thought psychology was of little practical use in policing, against more than 43 per cent of the women.

Far fewer of the women officers believed that psychology had something to offer in crowd and riot control, in dealing with domestic disturbances, in community relations or in training generally, the survey found.

Oil pollution report

The Government said yesterday it was in overall agreement with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report on sea pollution submitted in late 1981.

The report concluded that, while current levels of marine oil pollution were unlikely to cause permanent damage, minimizing the severe short-term effects of large spills and their prevention could be improved.

£293m for Wales

Welsh local authorities will receive about £293m for capital expenditure in 1984-85, compared with £296m this year, but the Government will withhold about £19m in case capital spending this year exceeds cash limits.

The Wyndham-Western colliery, near Pontypridd, south Wales, is to close. It has not been producing coal since last September and most of the 450 men have transferred to other collieries.

Pit to close

The Wyndham-Western colliery, near Pontypridd, south Wales, is to close. It has not been producing coal since last September and most of the 450 men have transferred to other collieries.

Jumbo crossword

The Times Jumbo Christmas crossword will appear on Saturday December 24. Newsagents may wish to order extra supplies to ensure that regular readers can order a copy.

Genetic engineering: 2 Early diagnosis of hereditary defects

Since last year, two British teams have been using genetic engineering to detect serious hereditary defects in fetuses just eight weeks old.

Their work depends on identifying and copying a piece of DNA (genetic material) that corresponds to a particular faulty gene. This DNA is called a probe because it is used in the laboratory analysis of fetal cells to pick out just that one gene from millions of others.

Dr Bernadette Modell, of the department of obstetrics at University College Hospital, London, is working with Professor David Weatherall, of Oxford University, to diagnose thalassaemia, a serious blood disorder found among people of Mediterranean origin. They have carried out about 25 diagnoses, some as early as six weeks, allowing the mother to have a simple early abortion if her fetus has inherited the single faulty gene responsible for the disease.

The second group includes Mr Charles Rodeck, an obstetric surgeon at King's College Hospital Medical School, London, and Dr John Gosden and Dr Christine Gosden, a husband and wife team from the Medical Research Council's clinical and population cytogenetics unit, Edinburgh. They are not looking for a single defective gene but are detecting male fetuses by a sequence of DNA found only on the Y sex

and for which, therefore, reliable DNA probes could be made. Prenatal diagnosis of other defects was either impossible or depended on unpleasant tests later in pregnancy.

An international scientific effort is now under way to link other congenital abnormalities to specific pieces of DNA, known as markers, and eventually to fix the position on particular chromosomes of all 10 million human genes.

Two American successes have been reported within the past month. Most Spectacular is a marker for Huntington's disease, which causes mental deterioration during early middle age, ending in a demented death. The other achievement is a DNA probe for Phenylketonuria (PKU), a metabolic disorder that leads to mental retardation in certain children unless they follow a rigid diet.

Probes for other diseases associated with single gene defects should follow within a very few years.

As gene probes become available for more congenital abnormalities, the National Health Service will have to devote greater resources to prenatal screening if the general population is to benefit from the technology.

Next: Genetic manipulation of plants, animals... and humans.

In the second article of his series on genetic engineering, CLIVE COOKSON describes how medical researchers can diagnose inherited disease by identifying the faulty genes responsible.

Chromosome (girls have two X chromosomes and boys one X and one Y).

Their patients are women whose family history shows that they are carrying a sex-linked genetic defect on an X chromosome. Boys stand a 50 per cent chance of inheriting the faulty X chromosome and therefore of developing the disease, but girls are not affected because their second X chromosome can compensate for any fault in the first. Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common such disease.

The technique is about twice as fast as the conventional method of foetal sexing, in which foetal cells are cultured and the whole Y chromosome detected by microscope. The mother is therefore offered an abortion at the earliest possible moment if she is carrying a male foetus.

The tissue for such early genetic analysis comes from chorionic villi - tiny fibres that connect the foetus to the uterus in early pregnancy. A single one of the 10,000 or so villi can be detached, using high resolution ultrasound guidance, and removed through the cervix and

vagina without discomfort to the patient.

The researchers believe that the process does not harm the foetus (after it is properly implanted in the womb most will wither away). Although there have been a few miscarriages afterwards, these might have occurred anyway, since spontaneous abortions are common in early pregnancy.

But Professor Weatherall emphasizes that the safety is still not proven. "We want a five-year psychiatric and paediatric follow-up on these babies", he said. "Our own plan with Dr Bernadette Modell is to do 50 to 100 cases and then sit back and evaluate how good we are."

The world's medical geneticists hope that the procedure does turn out to be safe, because the alternative source of foetal DNA is from amniocentesis in the middle of pregnancy. If an abortion turns out to be necessary, doing it so late is obviously far more traumatic for the parents and may be unacceptable ethically.

Until this year some blood disorders were the only serious hereditary diseases whose precise genetic origin was known

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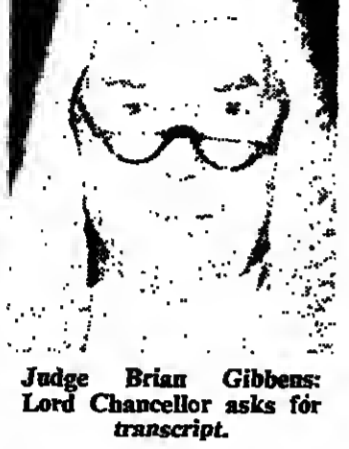
Judge jails child sex man for two years and says he was misreported

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, has called for the transcript of the proceedings in which a senior judge at the Central Criminal Court said that he felt sympathy for a man with a drink problem who admitted having intercourse with a friend's daughter, aged seven.

When Judge Brian Gibbons, aged 71, yesterday jailed the man, William Watson-Sweeney, for two years, "to mark the enormity of the crime", he criticized reports of the case in Saturday's newspapers.

He told Watson-Sweeney, aged 35, of Vemon Road, Guildford, Surrey: "I must send you to prison to mark the enormity of the crime. It is obvious from your remorse and horror you are never likely to do it again. This persuades me that I can treat you with less severity."



Judge Brian Gibbons: Lord Chancellor asks for transcript.

Everyone felt sorry for her and her family, Judge Gibbons said. However, he was not prepared to pass sentence by rule of thumb and made an apology for feeling compassion for anyone who had brought disaster and shame upon himself by a momentary lapse.

Travel agent staff 'must be qualified'

Package tour buyers must continue to be protected from untrained inexperienced and incompetent staff, the Restrictive Practices Court held yesterday.

Trading, which maintained that it was anti-competitive and against the public interest, but the court ruled that it was an extra safeguard for package tour buyers.

Editor should go, MP says

Mr Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, was censured yesterday in a Commons motion which questioned his decision to surrender a leaked document to the Ministry of Defence.

Hearing dogs anniversary

The Hearing Dogs for the Deaf scheme, launched at Crufts Dog Show last year, has completed its first full working year with five dogs trained and placed in their new households.

Life for killer who tried to fake own death

A father of two who battered an insurance salesman to death in an attempt to fake his own killing was given a life sentence by a judge at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

"For greed and in a way which would cause the blood to run cold, you selected your victim, a husband and father, and bludgeoned him to death unsuspecting as he was."

Computer helps handicapped boy

Lawrence Nicklin, aged 13, who is physically handicapped and who has speech difficulties, is now able to write and do arithmetic after being provided with his own computer.

Poison alert

More than 40 turkeys were taken from the shelves at a Tesco's supermarket in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, after a local newspaper was warned by the Animal Liberation Front that 12 birds had been injected with the poisonous paracetamol.

Murder remand

Ian Howell, aged 28, a kitchen porter, was remanded in custody until Friday by Oxford magistrates yesterday, charged with murdering Miss Jennifer Wright, aged 18, at an Oxford hotel where they were both staying.

Stars' plan for TV and films

United British Artists, the production company headed by top stars, is to make three films next year and record three theatre productions for independent television.

Jailed bank manager in £2m frauds

A former bank manager was jailed yesterday for frauds amounting to almost £2m, most of which he gave a woman trickster.

Wigan forgives Orwell's gibes

With a blind eye to insult, Wigan plans to honour George Orwell in 1984. The Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council has agreed to contribute towards a sculpture for the town where Orwell stayed briefly in 1936 gathering material for *The Road to Wigan Pier*.



Transferred to foot patrol: WPC Wendy de Launay.

WPC claims discrimination

A woman police constable was banned from regular patrols with a married male colleague because they worked too well together, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

Earlier this year he informed Miss de Launay, who had a high reputation and glowing reports of her ability, that she must give up her partnership with PC Trevor Atfield.

Mr Pannick told the tribunal that the decision effectively made it impossible for Miss de Launay to get on regular police car patrol, thus affecting her future prospects.

£400m cash aid closer for Airbus

The Government appears to be moving close to providing launch aid for the 150-seat Airbus A320, which seeks to give Britain and Europe a big share of the short-to-medium distance airliner market well into the next century.

'Trade drain' caused by town parking shortage

Local authorities are coming under increasing pressure from town centre businesses to provide more parking space to stop the "trade drain" to suburban shopping centres.

Dissident wins damages for libel

Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, the Russian dissident living in the West, yesterday accepted undisclosed damages and his legal costs in settlement of a High Court libel action against Guardian Newspapers.

Universities plan to fight back in political arena

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The committee representing Britain's university vice-chancellors is restructuring itself under the chairmanship of Lord Flowers, rector of Imperial College, London, so that it can better defend and rebuild the university system.

The academic standards committee, chaired by Professor Philip Reynolds, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, is beginning with an inquiry into the system of external examiners and whether it is adequate for guaranteeing the standards of examinations. It will also look at the supervision of PhD theses.

It has decided to stop being purely reactive, and to take the initiative. "We want to be more effective and hope thereby that we will have part of the instrument we need for rebuilding the universities", Lord Flowers said.

The working party on alternative funding will look at the way in which universities are funded in other countries, particularly the United States, where companies get generous tax relief for donations to universities.

Colleges shake-up

Sir Keith gave his seal of approval yesterday to next year's plan for local authority higher education, which will almost certainly mean the closure of at least one college.

This is the first time this sector of education has been subjected to central planning. One key priority has been a shift from arts and social science towards the scientific, technological and business-related disciplines.

Video maps planned for hikers

Maps for hikers and walkers may be made available on video and cassettes for home computers if a survey being conducted on their commercial potential by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain proves positive.

Radioactive fallout level drops

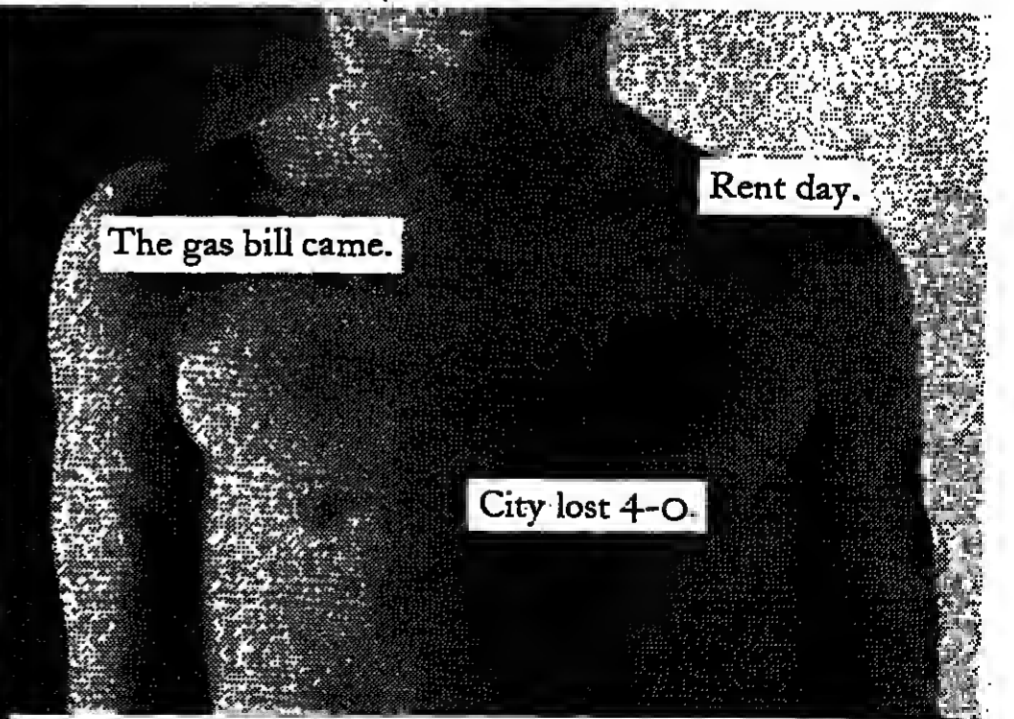
The amount of radioactive fallout over Britain declined last year, according to the National Radiological Protection Board. Levels today are probably lower than at any time since the 1950s, when many nuclear weapons were tested in the atmosphere.

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Local authorities are coming under increasing pressure from town centre businesses to provide more parking space to stop the "trade drain" to suburban shopping centres.

Life for killer who tried to fake own death

A father of two who battered an insurance salesman to death in an attempt to fake his own killing was given a life sentence by a judge at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.



The gas bill came.

Rent day.

City lost 4-0.

Luckily, we got there before his father was made redundant.

Most families cope with everyday problems and anxieties. But some parents just can't tolerate the stress. For them each difficulty is seen as a catastrophe. Bitter and frustrated, they resort to violence and often inflict it on those they should be closest to - their own children.

NSPCC donation form with fields for name, address, and post code.

PARLIAMENT December 19 1983

Home Secretary hesitant over banning Provisional Sinn Fein

TERRORISM

The Government has not ruled out the possibility of banning Provisional Sinn Fein, but there are arguments to both directions.

Mr. Brittain, Home Secretary, said in the Commons when questioned about his statement on the bomb incident outside Harrods store on Saturday.

He also said that preventive detention had been tried before and has been found to be unhelpful. However, the Government was keeping all measures under review.

Mr. Brittain, in his statement, detailed events at Harrods on Saturday. He said the police had already received 22 other similar messages earlier in the day about suspicious devices, all of this turned out to be false alarms.

The bomb was detonated by a timing device similar to that used in other IRA attacks. Everything possible was being done to bring those responsible for this outrage to justice.

He went on: The IRA made a statement last night in 'Dublin' to which they admitted responsibility for the attack, as well as for the bomb outside Woolwich barracks ten days ago.

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order duties and had deployed additional officers from special units, including dog handlers, to inner London districts.

He had also, following the Woolwich bomb incident on December 10, issued an appeal for help and the public to exercise vigilance.

Parliament yesterday (Sunday) with the Commissioner progress on his investigations into the incident and on further measures which he has now put to hand for the public's greater protection in the weeks ahead.

The Commissioner has introduced an additional measure whereby a number of vehicles are charged specifically with the task of responding to bomb threats anywhere in the Metropolitan area.

He has also increased the number of CID and Special Branch officers by 200 to counter the IRA and deployed a further four Special Patrol Group units totalling 120 officers in the inner Districts.

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Mr. Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Manchester, Gorton, Lab), after expressing sympathy to the bereaved and injured and praising the courage of the police, said: MPs and the people we represent are united in our utter and implacable determination to stand firm against the evil men who perpetrated this deed and who now, characteristically and contemptuously, seek to creep away from the consequences of their inhumanity.

Parliament will make no concession to the bully and the bomb. We welcome the additional security measures he has announced and earnestly hope they will grant a greater measure of safety to our people as they go about their lawful and peaceful occupations.

Every effort must and will be made to trace and capture those responsible for Saturday's outrage together with their fellow gangsters. All our people are aware of the risks we face. They are risks that must be accepted if the methods and processes of democracy are to be upheld.

Mr. Brittain on occasions like this the unity of this House is a bastion of protection for us all. Mr. James Malpas (Lagan Valley, OUP), on behalf of the people we represent may we offer our deepest sympathy to those who were injured and killed.

Mr. Brittain: That course has been followed in the past. Those who have been responsible for these matters concluded that its termination was desirable and its continuation undesirable, but we will continue to keep all measures under review.

Mr. Brittain: I am absolutely right to condemn murder from whatever perspective it comes and it should not be our task to dignify in any way these men committed for whatever reasons as anything other than the foulest crimes and the most barbaric actions. He has given views from his

Lybrand, appointed by the Chancellor had reported that, if anything, electricity prices should be reduced by 7 per cent. The Electricity Council apparently sees no need for any further price increase.

Mr. Walker: I am grateful for that invitation. Gas and electricity price increases will be decided and announced at the appropriate time by the industries concerned.

Mr. Walker: I am grateful for that invitation. Gas and electricity price increases will be decided and announced at the appropriate time by the industries concerned.

Falklands crisis will be exercised by them today with the same determination. Will he appreciate how the people of Northern Ireland at this time when such a terrible incident can cause such an outburst of condemnation, and rightly so, and when the people of Northern Ireland are frequently passing this way of sacrifice and death?

Mr. Brittain: I appreciate that what London saw on Saturday is something which Northern Ireland has had to live with daily. Mr. Martin Ryan (Leeds South and Morley, Lab): Most people in this country believe that what happened on Saturday was a terrible crime.

Mr. Brittain: There is no question of the Special Branch being dismantled. Mr. Russell Johnston (Inverness, Naismith and Lochaber, Lab): In tracking down the Beader Meinboff gang in the Federal Republic of Germany the use of identity cards was indispensable in their capture.

Mr. Brittain: I would have no hesitation in supporting such a measure if I thought it would make a significant contribution to tracking down terrorists, but I am not yet persuaded that that would be the result. Mr. Hugh Fraser (Stafford, C): Could we be assured that any talk with either the military or political IRA would not be seen as a concession towards the IRA in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, will be blocked?

Mr. Brittain: No such talks are taking place and no such talks will take place. Mr. John Hume (Foyls, SDLP): Not for the first time in 14 years I have repeated to the House today to describe an atrocity and there are not any more, they have all been used. As an Irishman I am ashamed, and I

all have a rebate since we all own the electricity industry? Mr. Walker: To assist Christmas good cheer, there is no possibility of electricity increases until the end of the winter. If there are increases, they will be a half of the very low current rate of inflation.

Mr. Walker: The important thing is that financial targets set by the Government should be complied with and should be met. The Government should also take into consideration the general economic scene. I am sure that is what they will do.

Mr. Walker: Over the last two years to real terms gas and electricity prices have gone down. Mr. Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C): At this particular time of the year, he has the total good will of every member of the Cabinet. If it should happen that the electricity industry puts its prices up, it makes a very large profit, will he try to persuade the Cabinet we should

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believe my shame is shared by Irish people everywhere, that anyone could commit such an atrocity in the name of Ireland. It is those who planted that bomb are Irish patriots. If those who provided them with the equipment and the plan are Irish patriots, if those who are members of the same movement are Irish patriots, then God save Ireland.

Mr. Brittain: The decision of Harrods was being committed, a young soldier and a young policeman were murdered in the Irish Republic while doing their duty, a member of the UDR was murdered in Northern Ireland and a young Catholic innocently going home was murdered. The incident at Harrods received international publicity, the murders in Northern Ireland did not. Murder there has become commonplace.

It is from Northern Ireland that the political cancer is spreading its tentacles and that represents that failure of Britain and Ireland to sort out their relationship. That failure has been pushed into a corner called Northern Ireland. Mr. Brittain: He is right in drawing attention to the wider dimensions of terrorism affecting Ireland on both sides of the border. The right course is to make it clear that what happened on Saturday will do nothing to give an incentive to IRA terrorism.

Mr. Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): I would join Mr. Hume in his sentiments. All Labour MPs share the horror at this barbaric act which slaughtered people who had nothing to do with the struggle. It just gives a malcontent and vicious twist to an intractable problem. May I appeal that nothing be said which gives an incentive to any unofficial grouping which would try to engage in similar retaliation across the sectarian divide.

Mr. Brittain: Any attempt at retaliation would be offensive, horrific and as much to be condemned as what happened on Saturday. Mr. Brandon Ryan Williams (Kensington, C): My daughter was working at Harrods and from what she was saying about the incident I understand that the security practice in the store was exemplary and might have contributed considerably to the saving of life.

Mr. Brittain: I have no wish to do anything which would lead to escalation. Whether that would do so or not is open to two views, but my observations are noted. Mr. Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): Did he hear the broadcast by one of the bravest men who ever sat in this House, Lord Fitzgibbon, who said that Provisional Sinn Fein were daytime politicians who served the cause of violence and we should seriously consider their proscription.

Mr. Brittain: I heard it. There is room for two legitimate views as to the wisdom or otherwise of proscribing Sinn Fein. This is a matter we are urgently considering but there are powerful arguments in both directions. Mr. Geoffrey Dickens (Littleborough and Saddleworth, C): This House has been full of words, sympathy, sympathy, sympathy, counting the cost of the action. Politicians seldom reflect the views of the country. We should be holding a referendum on capital punishment for terrorists. That is what people

Mr. Brittain: I do not think the arguments are affected by what has happened. Parliament today Communes (2.30): Health and Social Security Bill, second reading. Roads (2.30): Roads (Scotland) Bill, committee. Amusement Machines Bill, committee.

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Government want 2% price rise

The Government has announced a 2 per cent increase in electricity prices from January 1, 1984.

Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said in the Commons. He revealed that at a meeting in the morning with Mr Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, he had put to him the Cabinet suggestion of a 2 per cent increase in electricity prices in 1984, representing a 2 per cent increase over two years.

Mr. Walker said that the Electricity Council had agreed to a 2 per cent increase in electricity prices in 1984, representing a 2 per cent increase over two years. He said that the Electricity Council had agreed to a 2 per cent increase in electricity prices in 1984, representing a 2 per cent increase over two years.

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Whitehall brief

Nothing new for 'Yes, Minister' - The WASs RECOMMENDATIONS. Officials should oppose government actions which are unlawful or unconstitutional and resign if necessary.

Mr. Walker: The important thing is that financial targets set by the Government should be complied with and should be met. The Government should also take into consideration the general economic scene. I am sure that is what they will do.

Mr. Walker: Over the last two years to real terms gas and electricity prices have gone down. Mr. Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C): At this particular time of the year, he has the total good will of every member of the Cabinet. If it should happen that the electricity industry puts its prices up, it makes a very large profit, will he try to persuade the Cabinet we should

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Gas corporation target agreed

The British Gas Corporation has agreed to a 12 per cent reduction in gas prices from January 1, 1984.

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Protests at cancelled contract

The cancellation by British of its contract with Scott Lithgow, a semi-submersible drilling rig, was the subject of exchanges in the Commons as MPs sought either an emergency debate or a statement by a Government minister.

Mr. John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, said the matter would be pursued through the usual channels, the procedure for arranging the business of the House.

Mr. Norman Geddes (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) was first to raise the issue when he unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate on the cancellation of the contract which, he said, had been announced just an hour and a half ago.

Mr. Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, rising on a point of order, called for a statement from a responsible minister, either from the Scottish Office or the Department of Trade and Industry, before the Christmas recess.

Mr. Dewar said that the cancellation of the contract was a matter of extreme urgency. If nothing was done this week the contract would be lost.

Enormous potential of cable television

The development of new cable systems could pave the way for the growth of a range of new services of economic, educational, industrial and social life.

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Peace lessons find a place in school

Peace studies are taught in schools in many education areas, according to a survey carried out by Lancaster University.

The research, shows that 11.8 per cent of Conservative and 30.6 per cent of Labour councils have peace studies on the curriculum in their schools. In addition to that 47.1 per cent of Conservative and a third of Labour councils included peace studies under other topics.

The survey was carried out by Dr Paul Smoker, reader in peace and conflict research at Lancaster University and director of the Richardson Institute for Conflict and Peace Research, and Professor Hanns

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Driving ban on baronet

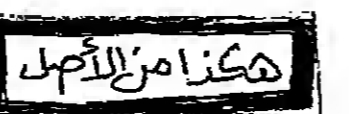
Baronet William Pigott-Brown, who was arrested for a drink and driving offence in his Mercedes at 4 am, was fined £150 and banned from driving for a year at Horseferry Road court yesterday.

Mr. Pigott-Brown, 42, described as a director of Easton Mews, Belgrave, London, admitted driving with excess

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The Tripoli evacuation

Israeli hardliners keep up pressure on Arafat's besieged PLO fighters

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government appeared in no mood last night to give the formal guarantees for the safe passage of Mr Yasser Arafat and his 4,000 Palestine Liberation Organization fighters, guaranteed said to have been sought by Greece.

The hard line being adopted by the Cabinet has the support of all coalition partners. Some individual ministers, such as Mr Ariel Sharon, the former defence chief, are still pressing for military action to kill Mr Arafat before he has the chance to escape to Tunisia.

Nations or any other civilized country. We have made this position clear and we have given no guarantees to anyone.

"The PLO is an organization whose aim is the destruction of Israel, and its methods are terror action. We have fought them and will go on fighting them."

A claim by Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, in a television interview that the recent naval attacks had no connexion with the evacuation was being discounted by diplomatic observers.

Mr Yitzhak Moda'i, the Energy Minister, and one of the contenders for the foreign affairs portfolio when it is eventually handed on by Mr Shamir, yesterday accused both the Greek and French Governments of ulterior motives for their willingness to assist with the PLO evacuation.

The minister claimed that both countries had secured a guarantee that there would be no more PLO terrorist actions on their native soil as a condition for coming to the assistance of Mr Arafat.

Meanwhile, the Israeli press continued to link the Provisional IRA bomb attack on the West to help with Mr Arafat's departure. *Hatzofeh*, the only daily which consistently backs the Shamir Government, complained that the free world was unwilling to learn from the London atrocity, "and draw the necessary conclusions in its war against terror".

The paper went on to charge Mrs Thatcher with "double entry book-keeping", which it claimed consisted of a firm hand against terror in Britain but understanding for the PLO as far as Israel was concerned.

"Let us hope", *Hatzofeh* concluded, "that after what happened in the centre of London there will be a shift in the world's attitude towards terror wherever it may happen; and they will no longer draw distinctions between attacks in London and attacks in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem."



Mr Moda'i: Accused the French and Greeks.

Army accused of errors over Tyre bombing

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Military errors which may lead to courts martial have been revealed by the official Israeli inquiry into the November 4 bomb attack in Tyre which killed 61 people, 29 of them members of the Israeli defence forces.

Local commanders apparently disregarded a directive from the General Staff to place an armoured vehicle at the entrance to the Tyre security headquarters, which had been identified as a target for terrorists from the beginning of the year.

The report also alleged that

the main gates had not been locked, that two guards were not at their posts who the lorry packed with explosives was driven in shortly after 6am, that earthworks had not yet been completed and that a zig-zag barrier erected shortly before the attack was ineffective.

Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, told his Cabinet colleagues - who had already rejected an earlier report as insufficiently detailed - that the military police were still investigating, implying possible court martial proceedings.



Eyes front: Members of the Salvadorean Army's Morazan Battalion marching out of San Francisco Gotera, capital of Morazan department, to search for guerrillas who had wiped out an army communications base on the Cacahuatque volcano, killing more than 50 soldiers.

Nicaragua mobilizes coffee-picking army

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Nicaragua is mobilizing tens of thousands of volunteers to bring in its all-important coffee crop which has become the latest target of the US-based anti-Sandinista contras.

The volunteers are being joined by hundreds of young people, mainly from the United States and Europe, who are forming international brigades to work in the plantations.

Nicaragua cannot afford to lose its coffee crop at a time when US sanctions and sabotage of its supplies by the

contras have badly hurt the economy. Contra attacks on plantations near the Honduran border have delayed the harvest, reducing expectations that last year's \$140m (\$32m) of precious foreign exchange earned from coffee can be repeated this time.

Nearly 70 per cent of the crop is grown in the northern provinces of Jinotega and Matagalpa, where the hilly terrain lends itself to guerrilla insurgency. By late January any coffee still unpicked will perish

under the unrelenting sunshine of the imminent dry season.

While the Sandinista Army and militias try to keep the controls in check, Nicaragua's 25,000 traditional pickers are being joined by 15,000 volunteers and 30,000 workers from the capital who are organizing themselves on a rota basis.

In addition, about 400 volunteers largely from the United States, West Germany, France, The Netherlands, and Scandinavia, will be arriving

over the next few days from international brigades in the plantations.

Another 140 foreign youngsters resident in Nicaragua have formed the first brigade, calling themselves the Maurice Bishop Battalion in reference to the Grenada leader whose assassination preceded the US invasion of the island. The foreign volunteers intend to spend Christmas and the first three weeks of the new year helping to salvage the coffee.

Four seized for planning attacks on US

Terrorists and others were seized with preparing against American barracks and arms depots and state railway property, the public prosecutor's office announced here.

Two of the four, who were all aged between 21 and 25, were said to belong to the Red Army Faction and the other two to an unspecified terrorist group.

When they were arrested at Russelsheim, near Frankfurt, police said they also seized a quantity of bomb-making material.

A 29-year-old shorthand typist employed by an insurance company was sentenced to two and a half years in prison yesterday by a Frankfurt court for helping the Red Army Faction.

Fans sentenced

Hamburg (AFP) - Two football supporters were given prison sentences, one of them suspended, and a third ordered to do community service, for their part in the death of a 16-year-old rival supporter struck by a stone. It happened after a cup match between SV Hamburg and Werder Bremen.

Left's victory

Paris (Reuters) - The French left ward off a strong challenge from the Opposition in a parliamentary by-election by joining forces behind the centre-left candidate, M Bernard Charles in the south-western region of Lot. He won the run-off poll with 52.44 per cent of the votes.

Thirty-year war

Jakarta (Reuters) - Two 65-year-old Indonesian soldiers, who thought the war of independence against the Dutch was still going on, have been found living among isolated tribes in the central Sumatran jungle. They had to be convinced that the war ended 30 years ago.

17 executed

Tehran (Reuters) - Seventeen people convicted by revolutionary courts of dealing in drugs and involvement in gun battles with security forces were executed in Iran, Tehran radio, would reported.

Gift's Water

Brussels (AFP) - Wellington senator yeston of his department budget 2000-2001, would cancel...

TV massacre

Bangkok (Reuters) - Five men fired machine guns into a crowd of about 30 Thai villagers watching a television show, killing 10 and wounding three others. The motive was not known.

Lucky turtle

Akron, Ohio (AP) - A rubber company researcher is hoping to get a crippled, 350lb sea turtle named Lucky on the road to recovery with rubber flippers to replace the two that were bitten off by a shark.

Andropov dying, says Newsweek

New York (Reuters, AFP) - Soviet doctors have given President Andropov less than two years to live, the American magazine Newsweek reported yesterday.

Quoting a knowledgeable Soviet medical source, the magazine said the 69-year-old Soviet leader was suffering from a degenerative kidney disease that had responded to treatment, but barring a new medical discovery his life expectancy was now only 18 months to two years.

Mr Andropov, who was last seen in public on August 18, was being treated in a special sanatorium for members of the Communist Party Central Committee on the outskirts of Moscow, Newsweek said. Doctors did not want him to return to his duties but hoped he would be able to attend the scheduled December 28 meeting of the Supreme Soviet.

He was on a programme of rest and dialysis, which artificially cleanses the blood of impurities that diseased kidneys cannot filter out.

Several doctors had proposed a kidney transplant, but others opposed it for fear that their patient could die.

A senior Communist Party spokesman, Mr Leonid Zaryatin, said last week that Mr Andropov was recovering from an illness and already working

EEC budget will be adopted today

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The EEC's £15.5bn budget will be adopted today, despite a letter to the Parliament from the Council of Ministers questioning the legal basis of parts of it.

Mr Piet Dankert, the Parliament's president, has decided that there is no point in reopening the conciliation process over the budget on the grounds raised by Foreign Ministers when they met in Brussels yesterday. In his view Parliament voted, so overwhelmingly in support of the budget last week that there is no room for any further amendment.

The Council yesterday was unhappy about the budget but undecided on what to do to stop its being adopted at noon today by Mr Dankert. In the end it agreed to send the letter, based on a watered-down British draft protesting at the way in which the budget had been agreed, but stopping short of asking the Parliament directly for a conciliation meeting.

The letter specified the main areas of the budget that the Council disliked. Among them was the way it had reclassified the £457m net rebate due to Britain to make it possible for the Parliament to freeze the money.

Other points at issue included the Parliament's claim to have the right to decide how much

money the Community can spend. This was in part linked to the MEPs' vote to increase Community spending next year by £80m more to the amount which member states believed Parliament was authorized to do.

A cheque for a further £178m is to be handed over yesterday by the Commission. This brings total Community support to

Gonzalez flies to see Mitterrand

Madrid - Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, is flying today to see President Mitterrand of France in an attempt to gain support for Spain's application to join the EEC (Richard Wigg writes).

Since the Athens summit the Madrid Government has been anxious to discover France's intentions during its chairmanship of the Community starting on January 1.

Britain: for the year to £809m. The money falls £42m short of the total Britain believes it is owed for that year, and the Government has promised to continue to work for full payment.

Letters, page 11

Ministers dodge issue on Cyprus

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

The EEC again backed away from positive action against the self-styled Turkish Republic of Cyprus when foreign ministers met in Brussels yesterday and succeeded in facing both ways at once.

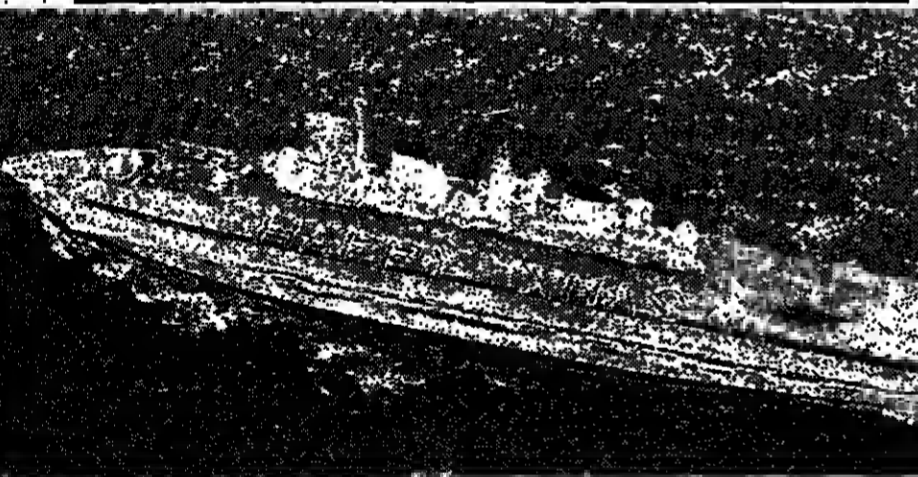
Argument centred on the preferential customs duty which the island enjoys when sending its goods to the Community. Greece, as current president of the Community, has been pressing for this to be granted only to goods coming from the Greek part of the island, forcing any goods from the Turkish area to pay duty.

Yesterday's meeting agreed that a new kind of document issued by the recognized Cypriot Government would be acceptable to the customs in each member state. But nothing was agreed about cancelling the old documents, which can still be issued in the Turkish part.

The Community has agreed to implement a new £26m five-year aid package, the money to be spent on "the population of Cyprus". With no distinction as to where it lives.

● NICOSIA: A Cyprus government spokesman has accused the Turkish side of murdering a Greek-Cypriot soldier on duty along the "green line" dividing the two

All decked out for Christmas Down Under



Invincibly cheerful: The aircraft carrier Invincible, undeterred by her sticky welcome in Australia, displaying a seasonal greeting on route from Auckland to Sydney. There it is hoped she will be repaired after Australia backed down from its original ban because the vessel might be carrying nuclear weapons.

Turnabout on Ottawa health Bill

From John Best, Ottawa

Thanks to a sudden and unexpected turnabout by the opposition Progressive Conservative Party, legislation to remove inequities from Canada's national health insurance plan - known as Medicare - appears certain of relatively smooth sailing through Parliament.

The legislation will abolish extra charges against patients which threaten the philosophical underpinning of the popular scheme - the principles of universality and accessibility.

The dispute over extra charges is the most serious to hit the \$3an 18 billion (£10 billion) programme since it was launched in the 1960s, with the organized medical profession and most of Canada's 10 provinces pitted against the federal Government.

The federal Tories were expected to oppose the Government legislation, not least because most of the provinces which took a stand against the Bill are run by Conservative regimes. But last week the Tories surprisingly threw their support behind the measure.

Mr Pierre Trudeau's Liberal regime, trailing far behind the Tories in public opinion polls, had been expected to use Medicare to restore its popularity with voters in the run-up to the general election, due next year.

US lists Soviet arms control violations

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration is nearing completion of a review of Soviet violations of arms control agreements.

The report is to be presented to Congress early in the new year, and although its contents will be classified the Administration is coming under increasing pressure from conservatives to make at least part of its contents public.

If this happens, it will further sour United States relations with the Soviet Union because it contains damaging evidence of what one official describes as "a deliberate Soviet policy of abusing arms control agreements".

America's Nato allies are concerned that publication of segments of the report could make it more difficult to achieve a resumption of the medium-range missiles which were broken off by the Soviet Union last month.

According to an official involved in the preparation of

the report, the document will list a series of alleged Soviet violations of the Salt 1 and Salt 2 agreements, the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the Limited Test Ban Treaty.

The violation which most concerns the United States is the construction of a new radar system in breach of the ABM treaty. The Americans believe the radar system would give the Soviet Union the edge both in first-strike capability and also in parity of nuclear strategic strength.

The Soviet Union has informed the United States during meetings of their joint group in Geneva, which monitors treaty violations, that the radar is not a violation.

Among other violations alleged by the United States are: The development of a new intercontinental ballistic missile known as the PLS; the carrying

out of at least 15 known underground nuclear tests in excess of 150 kilotons; and the use of chemical weapons in Cambodia, Laos and Afghanistan.

The report is also expected to contain a host of lesser allegations such as concealment of weapons systems.

Successive administrations



Mr Adelman: "We cannot ignore these problems"

have been reluctant in the past to make a public issue of some of these violations because of the damage this could cause the various rounds of arms control talks.

However, now that the three main negotiations - Start (strategic weapons), INF (medium-range weapons) and NBRF (conventional forces) - have all come to a halt, the Administration seems less concerned about the potential fallout that may be caused by openly pointing a finger at Moscow.

In a recent speech Mr Kenneth Adelman, Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said: "We cannot and will not ignore these problems (Soviet violations). If we are serious about arms control, we must be serious about compliance with arms control commitments and about effective verification for arms control proposals."

Air raid by S Africa 'hit school'

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Liabon (AP) - The Angolan Defence Ministry said yesterday that South African aircraft had killed "dozens of civilians" and destroyed an hospital and a school in an eight-hour bombing raid on Sunday against an Angolan town.

The Ministry, in a statement carried by the official Angolan news agency ANGOP and monitored here, said South African Mirage and Buccaneer aircraft began bombing the town of Caluendo in the southern province of Kuando-Kubango 90 miles north of the Namibian border about 9am local time on Sunday.

It said South African Mirage aircraft attacked Angolan military positions near the town of Mullondo in the southern province of Huila on Saturday, "killing several people" and destroying military equipment.

The statement repeated earlier claims that South African armed forces regularly launch attacks up to 186 miles inside Angolan territory

Peugeot plant workers vow to resist cuts

Paris (Reuters) - Workers at the French Peugeot car firm's strike-hit Talbot plant vowed yesterday to resist a compromise on redundancies worked out at the weekend by the Government and the management of the loss-making company.

Trade union sources said the workers were discussing strategy to oppose a plan to cut 1,500 jobs from the staff of 17,000 at the Talbot factory at Poissy, west of Paris. This would be 1,000 fewer lay-offs than had originally planned by the management.

Mayerling prince 'murdered by French agents'

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Austria's Crown Prince Rudolf was murdered, it was published in a new biography of her husband, the Emperor Karl, who died in Madeira in 1924.

These documents include a letter from Rudolf to an uncle describing how Georges Clemenceau, later Prime Minister of France, had urged the Crown Prince to stage a coup so that Austria could escape its ties with imperial Germany and join an alliance with France.

Although Prince Rudolf was notoriously francophile, despising Prussian militarism and Austria's increasing dependence on Berlin, he refused, with the result that Clemenceau, so the letter says, threatened to kill him.

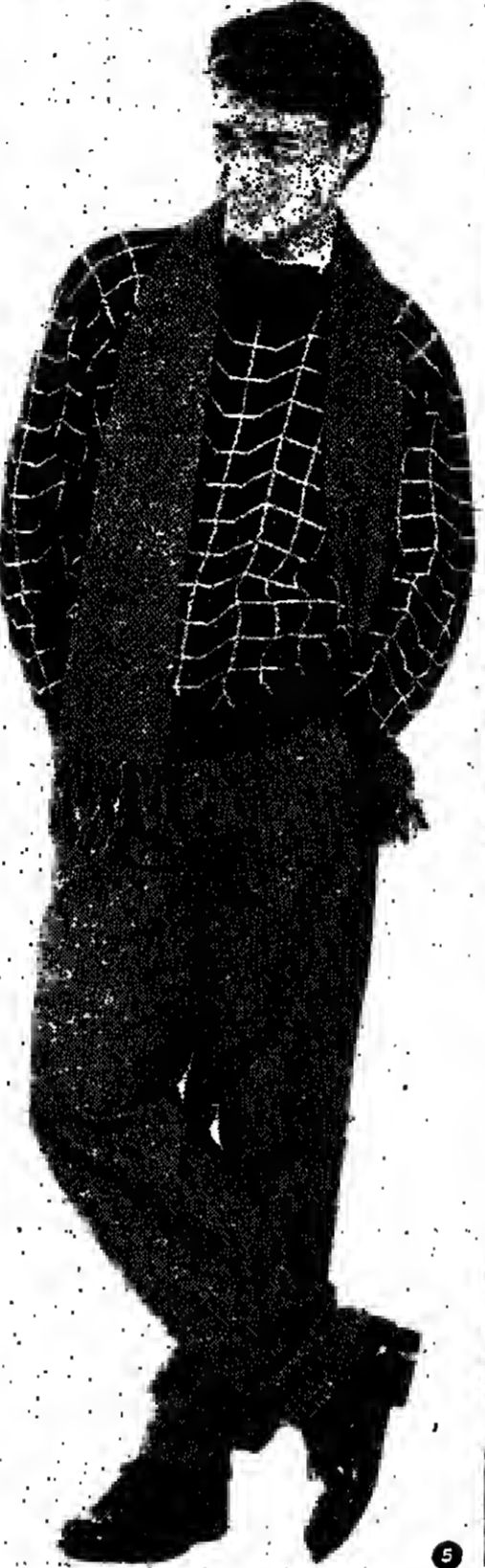
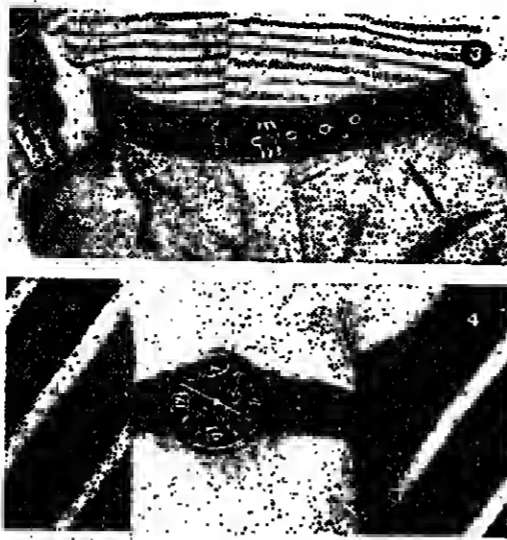
With this letter is the first Vienna police report on the affair. This refers to "unmistakable evidence that the Crown Prince struggled with four assassins".

Large advertisement for 'Suicide notes' with a picture of a person and text about Samaritans.

Form for Samaritans contact: Name, Address, and phone numbers.

FASHION gifts for men by Suzy Menkes

- 1 Stained glass window patterned cardigan in loden, peat and petrol, £75 from Marcel Lassance Shop, Great Marlborough Street, W1. Also Ice, St Christopher's Place, W1, Cooke, Walthamstow, E10, Raffles, Manchester. Cream brushed-cotton shirt £25, cashmere de £18.50, leather riding ribbed knit gloves, brown flannel trousers £49.50, all from Grey Flannel, 7 Chiltern Street, W1. Loden beret by Kangol £25.99 from Gee 2 Covent Garden, Marble Arch and SW3.
- 2 Denim blue polo shirt and ochre sweatshirt, both £17.50, brick red track pants £26.50, ochre/grey striped socks £2.25, all from (see 1), St Christopher's Place, W1. Leather desert boots £39.99 from Russell and Bromley.
- 3 Black rubber belt £14.95, grey and black woven ikat shirt £22.95 both from Sprint, 39 Long Acre, WC2, 58a Brompton Road, SW1, 90 and 96 King's Road, SW3 and Chelsea Man concessions Glasgow, Dundee, York, Coventry, Bath. Blue cotton trousers £39.50 from Gee 2, Long Acre WC2.
- 4 Black watch with fluorescent hieroglyphics by Laurens £45 from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, Covent Garden, WC2, 23 Avery Row W1, Byard Lane, Nottingham.
- 5 Graphic black and white sweater, also khaki/white £75, checked scarf £49, both by Giorgio Armani from Gee 2, Long Acre, WC2, Marble Arch, King's Road, SW3. Cotton dress shirt £10.99 from selected Marks & Spencer stores. Black silk bow tie £7.15 Liberty. Grey herringbone trousers with blue pinstripes £29.95 from Sprint, 39 Long Acre, WC2, 58a Brompton Road, and Chelsea Man. Patent lace-ups £35, Hobbs.
- 6 Original 1950s paisley shirt £10 from Covent Garden shop, only! whipcord paisley waistcoat £29.95, cord plait waist trousers £42, studded leather belt £21.95, tortoiseshell glasses £20. All from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, W2, 23 Avery Row, W1 and 10 Byard Lane, Nottingham.
- 7 Navy suede slippers with gold imperial print by Jean Muir for Men, approx. £43 from Campus Group, Oxford, Nottingham, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow, John Catton, Glastonbury. Socks Liberty.
- 8 Oxblood leather brogue £29.99 from Hobbs sale, South Molton Street, W1, King's Road, SW3, Hampstead and Guildford. Socks from Liberty. Fleck tweed trousers £29.95 from Sprint, Long Acre, WC2, Brompton Road, SW1, King's Road and Chelsea Man.
- 9 Tan leather lace-up shoes £39.99 Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street, W1 and branches. Mixed tartan trousers £79, peach socks £5.25, Paul Smith 43/44 Floral Street, WC2 and branches.
- 10 Jean Muir for Men claret red moiré silk robe, also navy and grey, £250 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1, Browns, South Molton Street, W1, The Campus Group Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Nottingham, Oxford. Matching moiré slippers by Jean Muir from Campus Group, John Catton Glastonbury. White wing-collar dress shirt £29.95, paisley silk bow tie £9.75, silver ball cufflinks £11.95, all from Hilditch & Key, 73 and 37 Jermyn Street, SW1. Silk socks £8.95 Liberty. "Baltair" corner unit from Habitat.
- 11 Mustard wool chunky sweater £42, check scarf £5.50, rubber studded gloves £5. All from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street WC2, Nottingham. Irish tweed hat £19.50 from Grey Flannel, Chiltern Street, W1. Tweed trousers £29.95 Sprint, Long Acre.



FARAH
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styled to fit you naturally

Personal Motivation

from Janet Reger

Come to our champagne evenings for men only (with women in mind) on the following dates:

21st and 22nd December from 5pm

Silks, satins and lace, created personally by Janet Reger. Beautiful lingerie - gift wrapped at

The Beachcamp Collection

2 Beachcamp Place London SW3 Tel: 01-584 9360

Knowing your own image is the secret of style and the essence of present giving. Buying for men is traditionally supposed to be difficult because there are fewer first class male gifts. But the conventional ideas - scarves, socks, slippers and sweaters - can have an edge of style. For men to buy themselves, or receive from their loved-ones, here are a sackful of ideas for Christmas.

ACTION MAN

Whites Xmas... white jennis belt with Gucci motif £8 from Gucci, 27 Old Bond Street, W1. In the bag... heavy duty Barbour bags £19.50 from the Country Shop at Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Ski-man... Carrera's wrap round goggles £23, curved black and white sports sunglasses by Porsche Design £40, both from For Eyes, 21 James Street, Covent Garden WC2, 16 High Holborn WC1, 97a Golders Green Road NW11. Feeling ropey... freshen up with Goya's soap on a rope (£2.35). Body Splash (£2.30) or the Cedar Wood After Shave Atomiser (£1.99). Wolf in sheep's clothing... stone grey ribbed Jacob's wool sweater £33.95 from Moss Bros, Covent Garden and branches. Order of the bath... Givenchy's blue and white cotton quilted wrap twelling lined £85 from Harrods. Low dives... Porsche's Ocean watch in iridescent titanium, waterproof up to 2,000 metres. Price £1,200 from the Porsche shop at Harvey Nichols.

CHIC

Cutting a dash... Hilditch and Key's cut-away collars on neat flag-bright red, white and blue striped shirts, from £29.95. Extra cover... marbelized handle on the Aramis umbrella free with two or more fragrance purchases. From Aramis, Harrods, Selfridges. Bow-people's... traditional foulard silk bow tie £25.50 and matching handkerchief, both from Alfred Dunhill Ltd, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Getting ahead with a hat... tribbles and toppers, bowlers and mobster-hats, all from Moss Bros, Covent Garden.

Waist not waist out... burgundy lizard skin belt, also black, £65 from Alfred Dunhill, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Three piece sweet... elegant brocade waistcoats for day or evening suits £200 in fabrics to order from Tammy Nutter 18/19 Savile Row, W1. Reactionary chic... embroidered waistcoats, silk cravates, tapestry braces, top hats, tie pins and studs. All from stands at Antiquarius, 135-141 King's Road SW3.

MODERNIST

Tough as steel... stainless brushed finish and gold plated bezel tie bar £25. Cufflinks £35. Millennium bold faced watch £325, all from Alfred Dunhill, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Earning your stripes... Van Heusen's 100 per cent cotton shirts with red, grey and white stripes and white collar, £23.75 from major stores. Geometrics... alpaca mix geometric sweater with Alcantara trim £59 Selfridges. Skin deep... elegant silver and grey packaged Clinique's Skin Supplies for Men fitness and grooming products. From Harrods and major stores. Square face... Gucci's name round the face of a gold plated quartz watch with white, black or champagne face £195 from 27-Old Bond Street W1. Sock it to him... cotton and lisle fancy socks in a rainbow of colours £3.50 from Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Warm hands, warm heart... Armani's cashmere and leather gloves £30 from Browns, 27 South Molton Street.

COOL

Vintage brew... silver and black thirties cuff-links £5 to

£10 from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, 23 Avery Row W1 and 10 Byard Lane, Nottingham. New geometry... Pringle's bright graphic patterned sweaters £39 from the sports department at Austin Reed. Spots before the thighs... Crolla's pink and white spotted boxer shorts, from a selection of fancy pants £11 from Crolla, 35 Dover Street W1. Heart on your feet... hand-knitted socks scattered with hearts in vibrant colours £12. Multi-patterned Missoni socks £15. Both from Browns, 27 South Molton Street. Close shave... Gillette's stylish stainless steel and black Contour razor £1.20. Paisley prints... silk and wool

scarves £16.95 and matching bow ties £6.50 by Comfert. Armani silk rill scarves £39.50. Both from Liberty. Hair-raising... Molto Brown's seaweed setting lotion £3.15 for 300ml from Molton Brown, 58 South Molton Street.

leather belts from £9.50, school boy stripes £4.95 from Jaeger. Poster paint bright... fringed lambswool scarf in 42 colours from fuchsia to cobalt £19.50 from Harrods. Night stripes... Liberty print fine striped tana lawn night shirt £33 from Liberty, Regent Street W1. Rainbow-coloured... watches in red, blue, yellow and black £18.95 from Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Holly and ivy... canvas and nickskin red and green striped belt £45 from Gucci, 27 Old Bond Street W1. Little black dressing... Anne Tyrrell's evening collection in Harrods After Six department is produced by Ronald Joyce.

SHOPPERS' DIARY

Anne Beckwith-Smith, Lady in Waiting to the Princess of Wales, was reconnoitering the jewels at the opening of Hennell's new Bond Street shop on Tuesday.

The glamorous young Duke of Westminster unveiled the stunning collection of jewels which included sapphires as big as the Ritz - a copy of a flower diamond necklace made by Hennell's for actress Joan Crawford in the 1930s.

More discreet (and definitely more regal) was a diamond necklace that once belonged to Empress Eugénie and a drop pearl and diamond Russian tiara that attracted the enthusiasm of several of the guests including Lord Lichfield's wife Leonora and Anthony Andrews.

[] Over in Fulham on Monday, I bumped into Princess Michael of Kent doing her Christmas shopping for another kind of jewelry at Rutler and Wilson. The princess in mauve tweed trimmed with lilac fur, was drawn to earrings of the same colour - part of the delicious collection of paste that twinkles in this Aladdin's cave of fashion jewelry.

We're not allowed to tell you anything about Winston cigarettes, so here's a couple of stocking fillers.

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THE TIMES DIARY

For David read David

David Steel has not been able to find the time to address the Liberal candidates' annual conference at Trinity College, Oxford next month. After Steel turned down the invitation, Alan Watson, chairman of the Liberal Candidates' Association and the party's president elect, asked David Owen, who accepted with his usual alacrity. However it doesn't look as if Owen is planning a takeover. Last Friday he spent £96.95 in Hatchards of Piccadilly on a selection of books including William Manchester's *One Shining Moment*, two copies of *A Social History of England* by Asa Briggs and four of Nigel Calder's *1984 and After*. He deliberated hard and long over a biography of Lloyd George but left without buying it.

Sacrifice for art

The Royal College of Art receives more than £30,000 a year from charging applicants an administration fee of £20 each to apply for post-graduate courses. Similar applications to the Courtauld Institute are free. The RCA says that, unlike the Courtauld, it has to pay "heavy postage for returning portfolios out of London". The £20 fee is not returnable if you fail to gain a place; neither is the £2 charge for the prospectus.

Off-target

A plan to twin with a local authority in Russia or another Eastern bloc country has been approved by Kirkcaldy Council, West Yorkshire. The idea, originating from the council's peace committee, is not universally appreciated. The Conservative group leader, John Holt, has said that if the council wanted to make a gesture to communist Europe it should twin with a town which like Kirkcaldy, Kirkcaldy's biggest town, had been declared a nuclear-free zone. However, the Soviet bloc doesn't seem to contain such a town.

BARRY FANTONI



"I'm collecting for unwanted cabbage Patch dolls this Christmas."

Not to be missed

Eileen Fairweather, this year's winner of the Catherine Pakizian Award, intends to break with tradition when she receives her prize at luncheon today. Instead of a modest "Thank you", Ms Fairweather says she is going to make a speech attacking sexist attitudes in Fleet Street. A case in point, she thinks, was the front-page treatment given to the Brighton boy who was sexually assaulted - "when a girl is attacked it seldom results in so much sympathy and offers of presents". Her own winning article was a piece on King's Cross prostitutes, which appeared in *New Society*. "It's not often," she says "that a feminist is able to address a captive Fleet Street audience, but I hope to make my case in a reasonably charming and witty way".

Mullin it over

In the readers' letters column of the current issue of *Tribune*, the editor, Chris Mullin, is angrily attacked for refusing to publish an article by Sarah Roelofs on a meeting between Sinn Fein and Labour Party women. One of several reproving letters carries 23 signatures. This is rough on Mullin, who insists that he didn't even commission the article in the first place: "I only discussed it."



● Oxford University Press has sent out a Christmas card with greetings in 22 languages. The Hebrew greeting is upside down.

One-nil

Throughout his 13-year career in the House of Commons, Eric Moonman, the former Labour MP for Basildon, never saw his name on an early day motion. Now that he is chairman of Islington health authority, the situation has changed. Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington, mentioned Moonman by name in an early day motion that is highly critical of the authority. Moonman thinks the absurdity of these motions is plunging new depths. A recent one put down by an MP for debate congratulated the winners of a football match. "Someone should look at the cost of printing this sort of thing," says Moonman. "It seems to me that if we're not careful, early day motions could be used as a substitute for a congratulatory telegram service."

PHS

The bombers' blueprint

George Brock looks at the real aims behind the campaign being waged by the Provisional IRA



The day after... the car bomb at Harrods

Callaghan (who advocated an independent Northern Ireland in 1981), most groupings to the left of the Labour Party and a minority of delegates to the Liberal Party annual assembly. Some Provisional killings have turned out to be "counter-productive" even by their own criteria - most obviously the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974, in which 24 people died. Public opinion appeared to stiffen against any concession towards republican objectives and the attacks were followed by the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The Provisionals have since developed the technique of the slow, relentless squeeze. In 1979, their spokesmen were talking of a politico-military campaign which would last 20 years or longer. This summer, one of them revised the estimate by saying that "we are not so sure that it will take that long". Bombings and shootings happen at a rate which will gradually accumulate disillusion and the close of options other than withdrawal. For the Provisionals who direct, however vaguely, the sequence of attacks, this means only one thing: violence to remind people that they have not gone away. It is a curiously cautious strategy, producing a haphazard and attenuated series of outrages. It relies for its effect on the passage of time. It is important for the Provisionals not to precipitate any kind of reaction or climax that will make their squeeze harder to operate. It is in their interest to make Northern Ireland "ungovernable" but not to start a full-scale civil war. Too many bombs detonated too frequently in London would provoke too much government interest and activity in Northern Ireland - a change which might not necessarily lead to withdrawal.

There are several tactical strands within the overall strategy. The Provisionals have established, and maintain, an effective veto on constructive political movement inside the province; its commanders are careful not to let the rate of violence fall below that minimum which signals to the world that life remains abnormal. The occasional killing of unionist politicians such as Robert Bradford and Edgar Graham ensure that their surviving colleagues cannot do or say anything which might be vulnerable to the charge of appeasement. Members of the security forces, and particularly local men and women, are assassinated at a steady rate. Such murders are intended to keep up the pressure on the unionist community, to discourage recruits from joining the security forces and to drive Protestants out of border areas. The news of the latest killing was almost obliterated by events in London: a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment was shot dead in front of his 10-year-old son at Maghera, County Londonderry, early on Saturday evening.

The campaign in mainland Britain is aimed at politicians who, it is hoped, will one day tire of paying the human and economic price of staying in Ireland. After the peak of 1974-5, which included the Birmingham and M62 bombs and the string of attacks carried out by the men eventually cornered at Balcombe Street, there was little Provisional activity between 1976 and 1981 (assuming that Airey Neave was killed by the INLA, who do not follow the dictates of Provisional strategy).

The present phase of bombings began two years ago, shortly after the end of the hunger strike, with the remote-controlled bomb aimed at a coachload of Irish Guardsmen. Bombings are effective morale-booster among the IRA rank-and-file and its leadership may have seen a need to make stronger gestures to their own followers after the hunger strike ended.

The role of bombs such as the one at Harrods within IRA strategy remains most accurately described by an anonymous spokesman for the organization interviewed last summer by the *Dublin magazine Magill*. "Our activity in Britain at any given time is dictated by our ability to strike there. It is still a target because we believe one bomb in Britain is worth 50 in Ireland. However, we do not intend to hold the British people responsible for their government's crimes in Ireland. Any attacks will be limited to the British political establishment and to military targets. And if there was a big growth in anti-war feeling in Britain we would have to revise our attitude."

Philip Jacobson on Washington's growing difficulties in El Salvador

Will the death squads kill off US policy?

The message was considered so important in Washington that Vice-President George Bush was sent to El Salvador to deliver it in person. He chose the moment carefully - a state banquet in his honour. As Salvadoran politicians and army officers listened with varying degrees of outrage, Mr Bush warned quite explicitly that US aid to their hard-pressed government is now seriously endangered by its failure to clamp down on the country's right-wing death squads.

When the American Ambassador to El Salvador said much the same thing in public about a year ago, he was swiftly censured by the White House and subsequently lost his job. Mr Bush went out of his way at the banquet and a press conference which followed to stress that his biting attacks on the extreme right had prior approval and full support from President Reagan. What's more, the Vice-President declared: "It isn't just the President or me or Congress. If these death-squad murders continue, you'll lose the support of the American people, and that would indeed be a tragedy."

In abandoning its previous, largely fruitless policy of "quiet diplomacy", the US has publicly shifted responsibility for rounding up the killers and the men behind them squarely on to the Salvadoran authorities. As the new American Ambassador, Thomas Pickering, told local businessmen the other day: "We are certain that these individuals are as well known to the security forces as they are to us who have been in the country only a short time."

Officials at the American Embassy are busily leaking detailed information about particularly notorious police and army officers to foreign journalists. Mr Bush has also promised that the Reagan Administration will hunt down vengeful Salvadorans who finance death-squad operations from luxurious exile in Miami.

Better late than never. Yet at the very moment when Washington is flexing its diplomatic and financial muscle in support of human rights in El Salvador, President Reagan has quietly killed off a law which provided the US with its strongest card in dealing with the Salvadoran authorities. Late last month he vetoed a Bill which would have renewed the Administration's obligation to certify to Congress every six months that the Salvadoran regime was doing enough to improve human rights to qualify for further military and economic aid.

Like his predecessors, Reagan guards presidential prerogatives jealously; he was known to consider the certification process too confining. But there had been no indication that he was preparing to torpedo it completely. The State Department certainly regarded certification as a useful, if limited, lever against the wilder fringes of the Salvadoran military. At the very least, it symbolized America's wish to help the defenceless ordinary people who provide the overwhelming majority of death-squad victims. It also provided encouragement for those Salvadoran officials and

soldiers who are struggling - often at grave risk to themselves - to make their poverty-stricken little country a better place for all citizens. The jubilation with which news of the President's veto was received by the most extreme right-wing groups in El Salvador suggests that they see it as acknowledging that the US will never abandon its client government, however bloodstained. Diplomatic sources there believe that Ambassador Pickering was in favour of maintaining the certification process; only a few days earlier, he had denounced the death squads as "fascists serving the communist cause".

This episode can only reinforce the growing impression that the Reagan Administration is now floundering badly in El Salvador. The President, in particular, seems unable to decide his main objectives. In one recent speech to a group of schoolchildren in the US he suggested that some of the corpses which turn up daily in parking lots and ditches are actually victims of Salvador's left-wing guerrillas, seeking to undermine American support for the regime.

The guerrillas certainly have murdered government officials, local militia men, occasionally right-wing politicians. But there is no hard evidence whatsoever to support Mr Reagan's theory, while virtually every Salvadoran - and every US diplomat in the country - acknowledges the direct involvement of the security forces.

Some of the key figures in the death squads have already been identified in US newspapers: the

much-feared Major José Ricardo Pozo of the Treasury Police; the intelligence chief of the national police; a provincial army commander. Clear links are also known to exist between known extremists and Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, head of the Salvadoran constituent assembly and the far right's likely candidate in presidential elections next March. It is no secret that the Americans believe d'Aubuisson is closely involved with the murder squads; for very reason, he was recently refused a visa for a trip to the US.

What could the President have been trying to achieve by his dismissive remarks about death squads? State Department officials dealing with El Salvador were agitated at the undermining of their new tough line on the death squads. The *Washington Post* accused Reagan of "going a long way toward giving the killer right a free hand and relieving the Salvadoran authorities of anything about their deeds".

A moderate Salvadoran politician considered that the middle ground, already fearfully risky territory, was certain to become even more dangerous. With US military advisers in despair at the failure of the Salvadoran army to contain the guerrillas on the battlefield and the crucial presidential vote barely three months off, it is becoming increasingly difficult to discern any coherent policy in Washington.

Meanwhile, the bad news for Mr Reagan rolls in. Last week, the Salvadoran assembly finally approved an article for the country's new constitution which effectively

blocks the possibility of sweeping land reform. It was a triumph for the assembly's right-wing coalition, which has bitterly opposed US-backed plans for large-scale redistribution of farmland to the poor. It was also a triumph of blatant intimidation by the death squads. The political debate was accompanied by a ruthless assault on agricultural trade unionists and members of collective farms.

Nine members of one small commune (two of them pregnant women) were kidnapped, tortured and strangled the night before I was due to meet them. Their broken bodies turned up by another cooperative farm, a grim and unmistakable warning. They were exactly the sort of people whose votes are going to be crucial for the election of the moderate Christian Democrat's presidential candidate, the respected José Napoleón Duarte.

All Salvadorans understand - even if some resent it - that sustained pressure from the US offers the only hope of stopping the slaughter of innocent civilians. Duarte acknowledged as much during a speech in Washington last week in which he praised the US for sharpening its public criticism of the death squads. There is a chance that killings will increase during the election campaign," he warned. "The rightists will do all they can to discourage democracy."

Brave men like this, at the sharp end of US policies in El Salvador, have a right to expect consistent and unambiguous support from Washington.



Victim of a death squad; and the killings are likely to increase

Roger Scruton

Laying down the law

The English legal system is rooted in common law, and decisions made by judges have led to an accumulated weight of tacit legislation which Parliament could overthrow only by destroying the basis of its own legislative competence. Some regret this fact, arguing that judges, since they are not elected representatives, ought not to make law. Others welcome it, arguing that judges, because they are not elected representatives, are competent to make law. No man becomes a judge merely by standing at the hustings and striking out his identity with a political party. To become a judge you need to know the law, and to have acquired long experience of its application in the concrete circumstances of human conflict. To become a member of the House of Commons you need no qualifications whatsoever.

At the same time, no judge can take the overarching, long-term view of things which we expect (and occasionally receive) from Parliament. It would be not so much optimistic as irrational to wish (with Professor Hayek) that all laws should issue slowly and piecemeal, from repeated applications of judicial reasoning. Although modern statutes are often hastily drafted, crudely debated, and ignorantly understood, it would be absurd to try to govern a modern society without a powerful legislative body able to dictate statutes to the courts.

But the dangers are obvious. How is Parliament to be controlled, and by whom? It is not enough to say: by the electorate. The electorate has a narrow choice between two or three major contenders, and is hardly likely to vote a government out of office for just this or that piece of legislative nonsense. Besides, by the time of an election, the damage may be done. Habits form quickly in politics and, as the history of industrial legislation displays, rights once granted to powerful bodies cannot easily be removed.

The obvious answer is that Parliament must be responsive to judicial criticism. One of the major virtues of the House of Lords is that it contains the highest judges in the land, who may influence the upper house to reject ill-considered legislation, or to introduce proposed amendments. But valuable as this influence has been, it cannot suffice to correct the major defect of the House of Commons, which is its tendency to neglect the detail of human conflict in order to achieve a synthetic perspective, often guided more by ideology than by a concern for truth. The real test of law is in the courts. In confrontation with the human reality, hence Parliament must listen to criticism, such as was offered on December 6 by the Court of Appeal in its judgment in the *Dinshley* case. It was persuasively argued that the 1982 Employment Act contains a serious intellectual flaw which, properly exploited by management, would deprive unions of a power that they ought to have - the power to carry on a dispute with

an employer who has tried to slip out of it by changing his legal identity.

Given the importance of judges in determining the character and conduct of our political process, how should a judge be educated? It is a wise principle of English law that High Court judges should be chosen, not from the ranks of solicitors, whose long-standing personal relations with their clients must inevitably conflict with the objective responsibility to the law, but from the ranks of barristers, whose duty is to put the law on trial before the facts of human conflict, by making the best possible case for a particular judgment. And it is a further wise principle of our law - though one that is constantly threatened - that the two legal professions should be kept as far apart as is compatible with their constant need to cooperate.

The problem is therefore, should a barrister be educated? I do not mean after qualifying, when experience is his master, but before qualifying, during the years when he acquires his "formal education". There has been a tendency in recent years for the Bar Council, and its educational arm, the Council for Legal Education, to believe that the main ingredient in a barrister's education should be law. In 1981, therefore, following the report of the Ombudsman Committee, it was decided that nobody should read for the Bar who has not obtained either a degree in law, or the diploma in law offered by the City University and the Polytechnic of Central London as a postgraduate qualification. After all, if a degree in law is worth anything, it is to a barrister, and what better qualification could he have?

This shrewdly viewed neglects the prime fact, which is that the education of the judge, Common law judges are legislators, with a refined and far-reaching political function, who must be able to perceive both the deadness of dead legislation, and the vitality of new legal solutions. Our common law owes its strength to the creative genius of judges who, by obeying their own doctrines and principles, have generally proved more competent than the knots of human conflict that has Parliament. The greatest recent example of this creative genius - Lord Denning - did not read law at university, and displays in his judgments the broad education and culture which, by helping him to enter imaginatively into the conflict before him, have given substance and direction to his strikingly novel interpretations of the law.

How then should a barrister be educated? He needs imaginative understanding of the knots of human conflict that has Parliament, some through study of the classics, some through the "practical criticism" of the Leavisites, some through philosophy, some through history, but none, so far as I know, through law.

William Safire

Man with a cargo of influence

Washington This is the story of connexion. No blot of wrong-doing intended, just a demonstration of how a billionaire capitalist shipowner - who is also an adviser to the government of China - can gain frequent access to, and perhaps influence, a total stranger who is elected president of the United States.

Fleeting Shanghai when the communists took over in 1949, Yue-Kong Pao started a small trading company in Hongkong, bought an old coal-burning ship, and in 30 years built his stake and his genius for making connexions into a shipping empire to rival that of any Greek or Texan. On the way he picked up a knightship, transferred his political interest from capitalist Taipei to communist Peking, and was seen two years ago as a takeover threat by Jardine Matheson, the Hongkong business and property empire familiar to readers of James Clavell's novels.

When Ronald Reagan became president, Sir Y. K. Pao applied his connexion genius. The trick was to cultivate Michael Deaver, the presidential aide who controlled Mr Reagan's diary. Pao obtained an invitation to the inauguration ceremony - an easy matter for one of the world's wealthiest men - and arranged an introduction to Deaver. Soon after, Deaver found himself at a Washington dinner party with Sir Y. K. as a fellow guest. They met socially, Deaver recalls now, as if the social occasion had not been arranged for the purpose of furthering their relationship.

On June 12, 1981 - the same day that the secretary of state, Mr Alexander Haig, arrived in Peking - Deaver ushered Pao into the Oval Office to meet President Reagan. The meeting lasted three of four minutes, Deaver now recalls, minimizing its significance, and he cannot remember the subject discussed.

Reached by telephone in Hongkong, Pao recalls that the meeting lasted about 20 minutes. To a president whose lifelong support of the Chinese Nationalist government in Taiwan was a worry to the People's Republic, Pao the go-between remembers pointing out the need for closer relations between Washington and Peking. During the meeting, Pao the businessman could not resist asking if Mrs Reagan would launch one of his ships.

On September 16, 1982, soon after Reagan's turnaround on arms aid to Taiwan, Y. K. Pao was one of the guests at the White House state

dinner honouring President Marcos of the Philippines. That was the toughest ticket in town, but Deaver delivered. On March 3, 1983, at the dinner for the Queen in San Francisco, Y. K. Pao was there again.

On July 12, 1983, Sir Y. K. was again in the Oval Office. According to Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, this was merely a handshake and a photograph, which is also how Deaver characterizes the visit. But Pao was reported by the *Far East Economic Review* 18 months earlier to have a large picture in his reception room of himself shaking hands with the President. He acknowledges this, and replies in a courteous if puzzled manner - why all this detail? - that this visit to Reagan also lasted about 20 minutes, and concerned Mexico.

Deaver's largesse with access to the President has not gone unreciprocated. As advance agent for Reagan's Asian trip last month, Deaver twice visited Hongkong this year, once to scout it as a potential stop (lunch with Pao) and after Hongkong was removed from Reagan's itinerary, for a lavish harbour cruise with 30 guests aboard Y. K. Pao's ship.

Wasn't it somewhat presumptuous for a White House aide to take Reagan's reserve jumbo with 25 passengers plus crew to Hongkong for a dinner party? "It was on the way," says Deaver, who was going from Manila to Tokyo. In fact, it was 702 miles out of the way. "Frankly, I stopped in Hongkong to rest myself. We did some pretty hard work, and you've got to have some place to stop and rest before you go on." An extra stop is not rest, but fun, costly to the taxpayer. For Y. K. Pao, whom Deaver credits with being the first to suggest that Reagan visit China - though that has yet to materialize - it was another great gain of prestige to have a presidential aide stop in his city for the sole purpose of its passengers cruising around on his yacht. What does the story of this connexion teach us? Because both Sir Y. K. Pao, who may one day be governor of Hongkong, and Deaver, who may one day finish writing his diet cookbook, returned my calls, this essay has a benign tone. This lesson is not merely that this is still a world where a poor man can make a billion dollars. Beyond that, he can reach out to hobnob with and perhaps influence the highest and the mightiest, if he has a genius for making connexions.

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سكند من الأصل



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PRICE FOR THE JOB

A standard minimum wage, whether established by trade union agreement or official regulation, is a restrictive practice. Unless it is unenforced or ineffective through being set below the competitive market clearing rate, it results in the withholding of labour from that part of the economy which is subject to wage regulation. It denies jobs to those who seek employment in that sector, while reinforcing a contrived monopoly, or at least a scarcity of labour in it, to the advantage of those already holding jobs there.

At last the moral appears to be getting through to the Government. It started with Mr Lawson's recent paper to the NEDC, which, by indicating that growth in employment can be expected to predominate in the services, signalled an official end to the long-term obsession with the protection of manufacturing as the source of jobs and economic strength. That obsession held sway in the face of the secular trend in all developing economies away from manufacturing towards service industries and market service employment. The obsession, however, was not satisfied simply by subsidizing manufacturing as a means of easing the social pain of the economic transition to a more service-based economy. It reflected an abiding political belief - against all the evidence - that manufacturing was and should remain, the Holy Grail of economic strength.

Yesterday the Department of Employment published a research paper which proclaimed - as though in surprise - that the chances of young people finding work are affected by the level of pay they receive compared to adults. It followed a discussion paper from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research published in August which put its finger more firmly on the sore point of youth employment and training by revealing that British apprentices earn roughly three times as much relative to adult workers as do apprentices in Germany and Switzerland (60 per cent of adult wages in Britain, 20 per cent in Germany and Switzerland).

That distortion, said the authors, stemmed primarily from market imperfections caused by paying wages in excess of their market clearing level. It arose from minimum wage and social security legislation, public sentiment about what young people should be paid (though how that affected the attitudes of wage bargainers was not clear) and the exercise of monopoly bargaining power on the part of trade unions.

Here we come back to the trade unions and Mr Leon Brittan's speech on the closed shop delivered last weekend. The headlines concentrated on his statement that the closed shop, if itself, however enforced, a flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties. That is certainly a sound position of principle. But there is an equally important and urgent economic reason for dismantling it, which he put clearly later on in his speech.

"It has killed existing jobs and prevented new ones from being created. Those who use the closed shop to impose their own price

on their own labour do so at the expense of the profits needed for tomorrow's investment and tomorrow's jobs. And they do so, too, at the expense of all those who might otherwise be employed if the rigid wage structures and restrictive practices which such unions enforce did not apply. That is why there is nothing fraternal about the closed shop."

By November 1984, the trade unions will be required to submit their closed shop arrangements to a ballot among employees, with an 80 per cent minimum requirement. Under the Employment Act 1982 these ballots can be held earlier at the Secretary of State's discretion. The Government is said to be taking stock of that possibility. It should expedite the decision to advance the ballot to an earlier date.

Action on the wages councils should follow soon after, since in 1985 Britain will be able to denounce the ILO Convention which under a 10-year rule covers them. The Government has already recognized how these wages councils tend to price young people out of jobs and matters that it is reviewing in 1985, should be followed by legislation.

The main legal privileges of the trade unions are derived from legislation in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century when the conditions of the poor were the major topic of debate and it was widely held that the rich were somehow responsible for that condition. It was thought necessary to rectify the balance of power by extending the authority and immunity of collective action by workers in trade unions. By now it must be clear that the coercive and disruptive power of the closed shop, and the economic rigidities which ensue from it, have more than redressed that balance to the disadvantage of the unemployed and to the national economy as a whole.

In two other countries the effects and implications of wage regulation in adversely discriminating against people's employment opportunities have been clearly recognized for many years - the United States and South Africa. Their wage restrictions militate against black employment. How ironic it is, here in Britain, to listen to the arguments against rising unemployment particularly among the young and the blacks without any recognition from those trade unionists who are loudest in their condemnation of unemployment at the bottom end of the scale that the unions themselves are the principal architects of a system of wage restriction which makes that unemployment worse.

Backing EEC with greater zest

From Mr Andrew Ross
Sir, As a concerned patriot I find myself thoroughly dismayed by the Government's continuing bluster over the price Britain should be expected to pay in order to remain a leading member of the European Economic Community. I understand, of course, that our national spirit, along with our industrial base, has decayed alarmingly in recent years, but it is surely pretty desperate when we cannot despite massive windfall revenues from North Sea oil, find a few hundred million pounds to stake our claim to a leading role in shaping the political future of Western Europe.

The continuing health of the EEC is no less important to British interests than the continuing health of Nato. If we have really lost faith in the EEC then we should, as a corollary, have doubts about the role of our forces in Germany. I suggest we back the EEC with more zest.
Yours,
ANDREW ROSS,
182 Old Woking Road,
Woking,
Surrey,
December 15.

From Mr Christopher Vajda
Sir, Whatever one may think of the purpose behind the European Parliament's decision to freeze the Community Budget rebate to Britain and Germany, one is treading on very dangerous ground in suggesting that, failing a solution by March, Britain should withhold part of its contribution to the Community Budget (as *The Times* leader of December 16 appears to be suggesting).

The legality of what the European Parliament has done can be tested before the European Court of Justice. It is, however, quite another matter unilaterally to withhold money that is lawfully due to the Community. There cannot be one law for Her Majesty's Government and another law for the NGA.
Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER VAJDA,
Avenue de Tervuren, 27,
1040 Brussels,
Belgium,
December 16.

US and terrorists

From Mr Melvyn Westlake
Sir, It is surely quite remarkable how little so manifestly undermined the United States' claims to the moral high ground in international affairs and, by association, the claims of its allies.

With what credibility can President Reagan or Mrs Thatcher now revile the IRA, the PLO, the Red Brigades or any other terrorist group and their alleged backers, like Libya? Western policy in the international field has indeed sunk to a low level.
Yours sincerely,
MELVYN WESTLAKE,
Rhoda Road North,
Thundersley,
Essex,
December 8.

Sir Oswald and Jews

From the President of The Board of Deputies of British Jews
Sir, The allegation that Jewish interests in the cause of his antisemitism is like the suggestion that those who attack Satan are the cause of sin.
My father was member of Parliament for Whitechapel and St Georges from 1931 to 1935. He constantly warned of the immediate and eventual effects of fascism, whether in its British or German or other forms. Certainly British Jewry fought Mosleyite fascism from its inception and whether or not they themselves were the immediate target.

A National Front leader once tackled me: "Why don't you Jews leave us alone?" he asked. "If you did, we wouldn't have to be antisemitic. We're busy enough dealing with the blacks!"
Plus ça change...
Yours faithfully,
GREVILLE JANNER, President,
The Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place, WCI,
December 15.

European elections

From Mr A. G. Mollett
Sir, The British electorate will be asked to vote on June 14 next year in the European Parliament elections. How many will actually exercise their right to determine who represents them in Strasbourg cannot be forecast, but I believe both the delay in setting the constituency boundaries and the continuation of the "first past the post" voting system for these elections will result in a desirous turnout.

The three boundary commissions - for England, Wales and Scotland - expect to publish their initial reports in mid-January for public reaction before submitting proposals to the Home Secretary by April. With the possibility of legal appeals there will continue to be uncertainty as to whether new boundaries will be fixed in time for the elections. Political parties and voters will

Home front on the point of collapse?

From the Director of the Catholic Housing Aid Society
Sir, Charles McKean's frightening comments on housing policy (feature, December 15) raise the spectre of a nation "with a growing rate of mortgage failures, houses collapsing in the streets, and with people on waiting lists having no prospect of being rehoused in their lifetime".

Unfortunately, he is correct. The present emphasis on home ownership is no solution for the millions who lack the money to buy. Nor do present policies provide less well-off home owners with adequate help with repair costs.
Cuts in public investment in housing have hit improvement grants for owner-occupiers as well as council-housing building. As the article points out, the owner-occupied sector now includes the majority of unfit houses and those in need of major repair. A significant increase in public investment will be needed to halt the deterioration of our housing stock in both the public and private sectors.

At the root of the problem, however, is the fact that owners are given no assistance with routine repairs, so that minor problems build up into major ones. Mortgage relief is both a patently unfair subsidy and an inefficient one. It gives inadequate help to those home buyers who need it, and unnecessary help to those who do not. It should be scrapped and replaced with a system of housing allowances which directs help where it is most needed.
If the Government seriously intend to avert the bleak scenario Charles McKean depicts they must

Reviving Ireland Act

From Miss Hannah Quinn
Sir, A grim reminder of the necessity for a new initiative in governmental policy towards Northern Ireland has been the assassination of Dr Edgar Graham in the grounds of Queen's University in Belfast. Last month (November 14) *The Times* published a letter from another member of the university, Professor Cornelius O'Leary, deploring the fact that a new initiative in Northern Ireland seemed low in governmental priorities.

It is not possible to revive the proposals contained in the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, which is still on the statute book and which provided for two separate states of Ireland, one in the south and one in the north? Each would have its own governmental powers, but could also work together in an "All-Ireland Council" of Ireland to which both states would send representatives, with the further provision that the council could become an All-Ireland

Prosecution by stores

From Professor Sir Thomas Smith, QC, FRSE, FBA
Sir, I refer to the correspondence in your columns regarding prosecution of shoplifters by stores in England and in particular to the letters from Baroness Phillips (November 24) and from the Director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (December 8).

In Scots law private prosecution is virtually never used and would almost certainly not be permitted in cases of theft from stores. However, proprietors of stores and shops in Scotland have found that recourse to the civil courts provides a more effective remedy.
If they seek and are granted interdict ("injunction" in terms of English law) against persons who resort to shoplifting, this effectively bars such persons, under sanction of the civil law, from entering again premises protected by the interdict.
The remedy can be made available both against the deliberate

Examination results

From Mr Max Morris
Sir, It would be a pity if the continuing argument around the validity of the Cox and Marks study strengthened the already widespread impression that the debate is about what kind of school system is best for Britain. It is about nothing of the sort. What is at issue is the superiority of one method or another of using statistics. In other words it is about statistical methodology, not education.
Examination results provide a limited amount of information about individual children in individual schools. Each child's results depend on a variety of complex circumstances and can only be usefully interpreted by those who know him. Each school is an institution peculiar to itself with its own educational lifestyle.
Examination results in bulk provide no basis whatever for

comparison between one school and another let alone one school system and another. My objection to Cox and Marks, therefore, does not arise from their statistics, perfect or flawed (about which argument will, as precedent shows, continue until the Greek Kalends) but from the quite erroneous conclusions they and their friends draw from them.
Conclusions on whether the comprehensive is better than the selective system can only be soundly based on a study of the total service provided to the community by one or the other. Having worked as a headmaster in both systems I have no doubt that the better service, and by far, was provided by the comprehensive.

Yours etc,
MAX MORRIS,
(former Headmaster, Willesden High School),
44 Coolhurst Road, N8,
December 8.

Broken marriages and child ties

From Dr Mary Lund
Sir, I am writing in response to the Dean of Durham (December 6) who wanted information to confirm his intuition that two parents can contribute more than one to a child's development.

As he pointed out, there is indeed conflicting opinion and little fact about what benefits children when parents separate despite the numbers of children affected. However, two recently completed studies of children and divorce have begun to fill this gap in knowledge: one by Ann Mitchell at the Department of Social Administration, University of Edinburgh, and one by myself at the Child Care and Development Group, University of Cambridge.
Both studies showed children's wish to have a continuing relationship with both parents after marriage's end. There is an universal, deleterious effect on children of their parents' separation. Rather it is the way parents resolve matters concerning the children after they separate that may help or hurt them.

If parents do not form some way of communicating which allows access without tension, or if one parent disappears completely from a child's life, then a child may suffer. Social problems at school and reduced academic performance can result. But if parents put their differences aside so they can communicate about the issues they have in common concerning the children, the children will thrive.
Parental cooperation, whether or not in marriage, is the key to children's healthy development. Surely, conciliation services for parents who are separating should be promoted to safeguard the wellbeing of the one child in five who now finds he will not grow up with both natural parents at home. Sincerely,
MARY LUND,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Paediatrics & Social and Political Sciences Committee,
Child Care and Development
Free School Lane,
Cambridge.

Parliament should the member states agree.
This Act was originally based on an Act giving home rule to the then Province of Ireland and was passed in 1914 and deferred, owing to the outbreak of World War I.
Lord O'Neill, one time Premier of Ireland, observed in his autobiography that only 25 per cent of this Act was put into effect by creating the Parliament of Stormont, which failed to give full civic rights to all Catholic citizens.
A determined effort by all Northern Ireland parties and Eire to be willing to participate in a revival of this Act with its inherent promise of Irish men working together for a common cause would lead to the peace and stability so desperately necessary in each state.
Yours faithfully,
HANNAH QUINN,
Crescent Cottage,
108 Marine Parade,
Brighton,
Sussex,
December 9.

Trident costs

From Mr Humphrey Buckler
Sir, The news on your front page on December 14 that the cost of Trident would be increased by £1,375m due to the fall in the sterling-dollar exchange rate, is hardly surprising. What is surprising is that the article makes no reference to any measures by the Government to minimise the impact of changes in exchange rates.
Using your figures, sterling is now worth 60 per cent of its dollar value at the time the Trident deal was negotiated. Thus the British taxpayer will either get less defence for his money or funds will have to be found from other sources - eg, education, health, social welfare or rate support.

The rise in the value of sterling was the biggest commercial factor contributing to the Rolls-Royce crisis over RB211 contract. Rolls-Royce was bailed out by the Government and one would have hoped the lesson would have been learned.
A private exporter or importer having foreign exchange commitments will take every possible step to eliminate or reduce exchange risk. As taxpayers faced with this enormous bill we are entitled to know what steps the Government took to mitigate the exchange risk inherent in the Trident programme.
Yours faithfully,
HUMPHREY BUCKLER,
46 Blackheath Park, SE3.

School performance

From the General Secretary of the Secondary Heads Association
Sir, Your report of social trends in today's issue (December 9) shows very significant increases between 1970 and 1982 in the percentage of school pupils gaining O level passes, particularly in academically rigorous subjects, in numbers staying on to the sixth form, and in numbers going on to further and higher education.
The other significant increase during that time, of course, is in the percentage of those pupils attending comprehensive schools. Perhaps your columnists and leader writers could turn their attention to that.
Yours faithfully,
T. P. SNAPE, General Secretary,
The Secondary Heads Association,
29 Gordon Square, WCI.

Missing the bus

From Mr William Barrett
Sir, May I suggest that your piece on vanishing buses (December 9) is altogether too gloomy? I realize that the comment of the general manager of Eastern Counties buses is special pleading, but why does he dismiss private operators and community buses as a forlorn hope?
Both systems are working in this part of Suffolk, where the population is probably as small and as scattered as around Swanton Morley. Is it perhaps possible that we can offer advice to our northern neighbours?
Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM BARRETT,
Pip's Peace,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk,
December 12.

Uneminent and trivial

From Mr Ben Weinreb
Sir, But Mr Kingsley Amis's minicab driver (December 17) might possibly prefer to chat to the uneminent Mr Philip Oakes. I know I would.
Yours faithfully,
BEN WEINREB,
16 Millfield Lane, N6,
December 17.

Status of whales

From the Chairman of Greenpeace International
Sir, I refer to Woodrow Wyatt's review of *Whales: A Celebration*, edited by G. Gatenby (Books, December 8) in which he takes the opportunity to criticise the activities of Greenpeace to protect the great whales.
World that his optimistic assessment of the status of whales worldwide was true. Unfortunately, he seems to draw his conclusions from sources unknown to those who for years have been closely involved in the scientific study of cetaceans.
There are no reliable population estimates for the ten major species, nor is there any evidence, with the exception of one or two particular stocks, that whales are making any kind of recovery from

depletions, much less a "strong" one.
Sir Woodrow Wyatt's portrayal of the International Whaling Commission's record also suffers from inaccuracies. Under the jurisdiction of the commission we have seen population after population of whales, and even entire species such as the blue and humpback whales, hunted to near extinction.
Protection by the commission has often come only after the fact. In the case of the blue whale, for example, IWC did not provide protection until the fishery had collapsed totally.
We must again question Sir Woodrow Wyatt's knowledge of cetacean matters when he speaks of the "white Bowhead whale". There is no such thing; bowheads are black. The reviewer has undoubtedly confused the white whale (or beluga) hunt, which is not regulated

by the IWC, with the Bowhead hunt. The regulations of tuna fishing in North America to which Sir Woodrow Wyatt refers have been weakened by well-financed industry initiatives. Tuna fishermen are free to kill even fully protected species of dolphins since these are not counted against their quota. Last year they reported a kill of more than the 26,500 allowed by quotas.
Lastly, I would like to point out that Greenpeace actions have never been of any danger to anyone except Greenpeace members and then only when whalers fire harpoons over them.
Yours faithfully,
D. McTAGGART, Chairman,
Greenpeace International,
25-26 High Street,
Leavesden,
East Sussex,
December 8.

THE ARTS

Galleries

Light deceptive mastery

Walter Osborne National Gallery of Ireland Bookbindings/ Richard Doyle and his Family Victoria and Albert

Islamic Art and Design British Museum

Walter Osborne is not exactly a name to conjure with, even in Ireland, his native land. Or he has not been for upwards of 80 years, since his death in 1903, but the splendid show of his work at the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin until December 31 (and then the Ulster Museum of Art in Belfast from January 20 to February 28) is bound to change his standing radically.

Osborne's complete eclipse is curious in many ways. He died young, at the age of 43, but he was not exactly unknown or even a very isolated figure. His formation as an artist was as international as that of any of his English contemporaries, such as Clausen, and he went through the same sort of evolution. Something of a juvenile prodigy, he won just about every prize in sight before leaving Dublin to train at the Antwerp Academy in its days of maximum influence, when he made contact with painters of the Hague School and a number of young English painters who were soon to be important. He was painting in Brittany, along with a host of other painters, and there came under the influence, then almost unavoidable, of Bastien-Lepage in his studies of peasant life and his technique of painting them. He then lived and worked in England until 1892, and built his career very carefully, showing regularly at the Royal Academy, becoming early an associate of the Royal Hibernian Academy, and being in at the beginning of the New English Art Club.

Both shows are the kind of in-house activity that the museums do so well, offering a valuable opportunity to see some of the less familiar possessions, and occasionally illuminated by being placed in a new context. The untold riches of the major London museums constantly amaze, and seldom more so than in the Victoria and Albert's bookbinding show, which actually puts everything the museum has in that line on display, to coincide with a lavishly produced catalogue raisonné of the collection by Duncan Haldane, even at £30 heavily subsidised by that admirable organization the World of Islam Festival Trust.



Osborne's affecting view of the child in Feeding Chickens

While at the Victoria and Albert, it will be well worth your while to walk through the newly assembled and arranged galleries devoted to British Art and Design 1900-1960: you will have plenty of time to do so, since this is a permanent display, and a source of amazement at the ingenuity of the museum's designers cramming a quart, if not a gallon, into a pint pot without causing too much confusion. But, if you are looking for truly reasonable

fare, the thing to do is to make your way to the Henry Cole Wing, where there is a wholly delightful exhibition devoted to Richard Doyle and his Family (until February 26).

No artist, not even I think Arthur Rackham, has been so completely at home with fairies, elves, sprites and all their kind and kin. Though Dicky Doyle himself did many other things - political cartoons, comic books about the adventures of three accident-prone bachelors abroad and so on - his happy and unquestioning knowledge of fairyland has been what most recommends him to posterity. And, if you think it is easy to define and make convincing the proportions of a fairy queen or a malignant troll, look carefully at these unquestionably accurate records and think again. It also emerges that Dicky was just one of a whole clan of fairy-fanciers, including (though not ending with) his nephew Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose strange credulity about the notorious Cottingley fairy photographs makes an odd footnote to the show. Clearly, as long as there are Doyle's about, Timberlake will never die.

John Russell Taylor

Television A real mystery

A Talent for Murder (BBC2) was clearly designed as a "vehicle" for Laurence Olivier and Angela Lansbury, although they could hardly have expected that they would be forced to get out and push it. It was an effort for everyone concerned, but especially for those of us who watched until the end: it was a "mystery" story, although the only real mystery was why it was televised in the first place.

Angela Lansbury was not so much made-up as embalmed - but since she was playing the part of a lady thriller-writer, the contemporary equivalent of the Wise Virgin, that was perhaps just as well. Lord Olivier had decided to use his high, quavering voice and on the many occasions when he claimed "My darling!" he sounded as if he were standing at the Walling Wall. Sometimes actors seem to believe that they can rise above a bad or nonsensical play by being grand or excessively theatrical - it is called being an "old trooper" - but this ploy does not work on television, where even the most talented performers can be reduced to the sum of their mannerisms.

Peter Ackroyd

Rock Optimistic finale

Simple Minds Lyceum

Despite their long period of recording inactivity Glasgow's Simple Minds have ended their year with a flourish, a string of sold-out houses and the current hit single "Waterfront" paying tribute to the loyalty of a committed audience while also confirming the band's status as Scotland's leading group.

into a carefully constructed web of emotional textures that move from the stirring "Glittering Prize" and "Up On the Catwalk" to the more introspective pieces like "King is White and in the Crowd".

They began their first London show with a studied version of "Waterfront" - an impressive statement of the band's confidence as a live force. Both this and the other new song, "Speed Your Love To Me", are indications of the Minds' mature handling of their material. They have arrived at a sound which manages to be portentous without being pretentious, one that has graduated away from its initial post-Roxy Music influence safely intact.

It is the dynamics and pacing of Minds at their best which lend them a peculiar intensity. Although the guitarist Charles Burchill relies on effects to state the melodies he never resorts to rock clichés.

The centrepiece of Simple Minds' atmospheric approach is the graceful presence and cultured vocal contributions of the frontman, Jim Kerr. His felicitous dancing and clear range automatically draw the listener

The high point of the evening was undoubtedly a cathartic version of "New Gold Dream" that meandered into a celebratory vamp of Al Green's "Take Me to the River". It was an optimistic finale to a highly satisfactory and stimulating night from Kerr and company.

Max Bell

Opera in America The first ladies

The second half of the autumn season in San Francisco was distinguished by a parade of prima donnas, which included some notable "firsts": Mariyia Horne's first Dalila and Mirilcia Freni's first (Puccini) Manon; plus Montserrat Caballé's first American Gioconda, Katia Ricciarelli's first American Violetta, and Régine Crespin's first Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein on these shores.

Violetta in this country with the same male leads (Alberto Cupido and Leo Nucci) she had in the Paris Traviata last year. Her vocal tone is still very sure and very sweet; softer, more long-breathed arias were elegantly and movingly sung. But she seems to lack the easy agility and gusto necessary for the gay courtship of Act I, performs in a very old-fashioned way, and persisted in slowing the pace of the music each time she took it over. Richard Bradshaw did a very unsuitable job of conducting.



and her meticulous musicianship.

Mariyia Horne's first Dalila was undertaken at the persistent urging of San Francisco's general director, Terence McEwen. He nurtured her career during his years at Decca, and is full of novel ideas of what roles his favourite singers should (or should not) undertake. Miss Horne had fears that the part lay too low and too heavily for her own exquisite coloratura-mezzo instrument, and for most of Act I her fears seemed to be justified. But the remainder of the opera justified the risk. Although she is still not one's ideal pagan temptress, Miss Horne had numerous occasions to display her gorgeous middle and high voice.

Régine Crespin's La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein is hardly "new" (after 163 performances in this production alone, it seems hers as much as Offenbach's). This faultless French production (originally staged for Toulouse) was a model of how to do Offenbach - with taste, grace and panache. Mme Crespin, playing a sort of pantomime version of her Mascallin, is the only "superstar" soprano I have seen who has totally mastered the style and wit of good operetta - a minefield into which others have ventured to such joyless effect. She, and everyone, and everything else involved, made

Ricciarelli's Violetta: sure and sweet

of this an exquisite Gallic confection.

A splendid midseason surprise was the revival of Ponchielli's La Gioconda, a production so aggressively opulent and busy it became a US television hit (with Luciano Pavarotti) in 1979. Monserrat Caballé sang with phenomenal quality and intelligence. The great Spanish diva has come to seem primarily the stalwart guardian of a priceless, fragile jewel of a voice that listens, spellbound, for each silver syllable or omnipotent blast - and looks to others for acting. Mariana Panouna of Bulgaria sang Laura as a Torandot-style ice-princess, in a strange, steely-throated warbling tone I admired for its clarity and control.

Conducting and stage direction (Andrew Meltzer and Lofli Mansouri) held a fine cast together well, and the Dance of the Hours was of classical quality - the vastly improved opera ballet, in fact, was one of the most important steps forward in Mr McEwen's second complete San Francisco season.

David Littlejohn

Tristan und Isolde Teatro Comunale, Bologna

It ended, as it had begun, with Wagner seated at the piano and the Wesendoncks in appreciative attendance - a domestic drama that served as the worldly background to the dreams and ideals in Tristan und Isolde. Such is the framework for Yuri Lyubimov's first undertaking since directing his adaptation of Crime and Punishment in London three months ago, and his last before he returns to Moscow to face Soviet officialdom over the future of his beloved and threatened Taganka Theatre.

In common with the handful of other opera productions he has mounted in Italy in recent years, Lyubimov's first Wagner staging is original, controversial and extremely well-executed. He handles Tristan as both an escapee from and an extension of Wagner's day-to-day circumstances at the time of its conception. So he is less concerned with Tristan as a mystical ideal of transcendental love or an expression of Schopenhauer's pessimistic philosophy than with its emotional and dramatic qualities. The romantic fantasy that has to be reconciled with grim reality.

He makes his point before a note has been sung: the three characters occupying the stage during the Prelude represent the triangle of relationships between Wagner and Otto and Mathilde Wesendonck, who put Asyl, a small property next to their own home in Zurich, at the "Wagners" disposal when Tristan was beginning to take shape. The mantles of the two legendary lovers - in the form of cloaks brought on stage by two masked figures - are assumed by Wagner and Mathilde, who are gently kept apart by Otto in a slow retreat to a background silhouette. The production thus assumes its quality of real and ideal, as the love-world of Tristan and Isolde is developed in the chaste nineteenth-century terms of the Richard-Mathilde relationship - only to be intruded upon directly or as a giant looming shadow by König Marke in the severe, respectable shape of Otto Wesendonck, the generous patron, morally-affronted friend and understanding husband.

Lyubimov never lets us forget this duality. His three central characters are clothed in respectable dark nineteenth-century costumes, in contrast to Kurwenal, Brangäne and Melot, who exist only as naturalistic props in the fantasy world of the inner drama. He makes extensive use of a large central steel frame which breaks up the stark space of blackened stage and acts as a gate

through which the two worlds interact. The emotional impact of events is not depicted in the poetic and carefully spotlighted expressions of the main protagonists, but in a stunning series of lighting collages.

His use of masked figures is less successful. But their mirrored faces in Act III do afford a compelling reflection of Tristan's psychological pain, and Lyubimov's coup de grâce is to use two of the masks to depict the lovers' idealized reunion at the end of the Liebestod - giving the three principal singers time to resume their positions around the Wesendonck piano for the first curtain call.

As theatre, Lyubimov's approach succeeds hugely. The charge that he has abused the text does not stand close inspection, but he does appear guilty of exaggerating the influence of Markhe and the whole Wesendonck episode as an inspiration for Tristan. Some Wagnerites will be disturbed by the importance accorded to Marke, and will find little or no illumination of the night-day axis in Act II.

The production's only serious weakness lay in the pit, where the playing lacked body and bite, thereby sabotaging the orchestra's role as a principal protagonist. Zoltan Pesko gestaculated his way through the score with more physical energy

than musical understanding, but he did keep well in touch with the stage and could boast the dubious virtue of allowing every word to be heard clearly. The Teatro Comunale, which is technically and acoustically better equipped for Wagner than most Italian provincial theatres, has imported most of the cast from West Germany. Wolfgang Neumann and Dagmar Trabert filled the title roles with tolerable accuracy but little beauty. Matthias Hölle made an outstanding Marke, and Livia Budai's Brangäne, for which her weighty dark voice is strikingly well-suited, also deserves a wide hearing.

Andrew Clark

ECO/Cleobury Queen Elizabeth Hall

Those who avoid imitations and resolutely seek out the real thing among the myriad of Christmas concerts will surely have ended up at a Sunday night's Elizabeth Hall concert, which brought the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, to London. They sang not only carols but Mozart's "Coronation" Mass, which they are recording, with a Handel Alleluia thrown in for good measure: an exhausting programme which came in the midst of preparations for the broadcast of their famous Christmas service of lessons and carols.

So it was not, perhaps, to be wondered at if their sound was slightly more pallid than one has come to expect: the deadening ambience of a full Elizabeth Hall scarcely offers the acoustical support of King's Chapel vault. But in the Mozart Mass one could only presume that no one at rehearsal had ventured towards the back of the hall to hear the balance of the choir against the English Chamber Orchestra: until restraining hands were waved in the Credo, the choir was swamped. It is also arguable whether such a clean, tasteful account serves this music best:

Concerts Songmakers' Almanac Wigmore Hall

Vienna. Graham Johnson has shrewdly suggested in his latest programme notes, was Brahms's New York: an adopted land near enough yet far enough away, where words and music had lighter air to breathe and friendship and anonymity weighed in an easy balance. But his ideals and his two "angels of judgment", Clara Schumann and Elisabeth von Herzogenberg, remained in Germany.

The Songmakers on Sunday carried the songs and letters back and forth over the border in "A Viennese Requiem" a song portrait of Brahms in the last period of his composing life. With Ann Murray as the voice of Clara, Felicity Lott as Elisabeth, Richard Jackson as Brahms himself and Graham Johnson narrating and accompanying, songs were as cunningly as ever matched to words by specific reference and gentle allusion.

Elisabet on its different versions. And then there was Schubmann and his "An Anna", an early song, guarded and championed by Clara and Brahms and given a chill, rather literary performance by Mr Jackson. Better suited to his sharp-witted artistry was Wolf's "Abschied", taken here as a brilliantly vicious little comment on the Beckmesser-Hanslick-Brahms connexion. Allusion ranged from the tenderness of Miss Lott's "Wir wandelten", a rapt vocal illustration of Clara as melodic muse, to Mr Jackson's bluff "Kein Haus, keine Heimat", with visions of Brahms slurping sardines from a tin at breakfast. Carmen was his favourite opera, and there was Miss Murray, bringing in turn languor and gleaming exuberance to two of the "Zigeunerlieder". The 1890s approached, and with them the last songs prophetic of the death of the angels and of Brahms himself. Ann Murray, whose contributions alone would have made the evening worthwhile, gave minutely expressive readings of "Immer leiser" and "O Tod, wie bitter bist du". Part 2 of the Viennese Requiem turns to Alma Mahler, wife of Brahms's "king of insurgents", as the Almanac return on January 18.

Hilary Finch

Nicholas Kenyon

"Cancer? Are you sure?" "How are we going to make ends meet?" "Is Daddy coming home?"

Macmillan Nurses face questions like these every day. They have to, because they care for cancer patients and their families. As you can imagine, it takes more than an exceptional nurse to make a Macmillan Nurse. It takes an exceptional human being. The other thing it takes, is money. When you give money to Cancer Relief, your money pays for Macmillan Nurses to look after patients in their homes, in Macmillan Homes and in Hospices. Your money allows us to give nurses and medical students training in advanced pain control. And it provides for special grants for families who are suddenly in desperate need. Please. Send us a cheque made payable to Cancer Relief right now, before you forget. Or telephone your gift by dialling 01-200-0-200 and quoting your Access or Visa card number. Thank you. Macmillan Cancer Relief fund National Society for Cancer Relief, Room 3 30 Dorset Square, London NW166L Registered Charity No. 281071.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Fraser denies demerger

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

In a firm mood with the FT index closing up 2.8 at 762.1, but turnover remained low. Much of the index's firmness was attributable to Bowater, the

shares from New York Market pundits believe the company may be a bid candidate. Distillers was another cheerful market, rising 2p to 221p after news of a 5 per cent rise in the price of its export standard brands of scotch and an 8 per cent increase in its deluxe brands. However, the market, which is looking for pretax profits of £190m, says the increase does not affect the important US market and is unlikely to have much influence on fourth quarter earnings.

The offer for Charterhouse Group and RIT & Northern by the new holding company, Charterhouse J. Rothschild, has gone unconditionally after receiving acceptance totalling 80.8 per cent. RIT rose 2p to 236p, while the RIT Warrants, minted

It now owns 422,000 shares, 21.07 per cent of the equity, and has secured a place on the board. Shares of Worthington rose 3p to 41p.

Drayton Consolidated Trust has been topping up its stake in Lincoff Kilgour Group, the cloth merchant and menswear manufacturer, and now owns 877,000 shares, or just under 20 per cent of the total. Lincoff held steady at 61p.

Border & Southern Stockholder Trust has reduced its stake in Munford & White, the electronic security group, which joined the Unlisted Security Market last year. Border & Southern has sold 4,000 shares at 215p and now owns only 300,000 shares, or 9.30 per cent of the total. Munford's shares were unchanged at 225p yesterday.

Promotion House has received acceptances totalling 17 million shares (58.95 per cent) for its 11-for-30 all-share bid for Berkeley & Hay Hill. The bid, worth 10 1/2 p, will not be extended. Shares of Berkeley slipped 1/2 p to 9p on the news.

The Boots fan club continues to grow. Yesterday the shares rose 1/2 p to a high of 185p after a presentation of the company to Scottish institutions in Edinburgh by broker Rowe & Pitman. Dealers in London said the meeting appeared successful, with several large buying orders reported.

Shares of Akroyd & Smithers, London's largest quoted jobbing firm, held steady at 45 1/2 p after shareholders passed a resolution at an extraordinary meeting to approve Mercury Securities purchase of 29.9 per cent of Akroyd's shares.

Michael Hartland, a private investment company, has increased its holding in textile group AJ Worthington (Holdings) with the purchase of 205,000 for an undisclosed sum.

There is a little more to yesterday's announcement that Gilbert House Investments has bought Coverbrook, the investment property company, than meets the eye. Coverbrook is the property arm of C&A, the Dutch-owned stores group, which received 2.1 million Gilbert House shares in return for the sale. Further deals between the two companies cannot be ruled out. Gilbert House rose 2p to a new high of 26p.

pulp and paper group, where the price jumped 5p to a high of 254p. The group has just announced plans to sell a loss-making mill in Canada and has received big support for the

As the Knightsbridge store reopened for business after Saturday's bombing, the shares slipped 4p to 224p. Later they rallied to close at 230p, a gain on the day of 4p.

House of Fraser said there was no truth whatever in the speculation that it planned to rid itself of the biggest jewel in its crown. Attempts by Lorrho, which owns 30 per cent of Fraser, to push through a vote calling for the demerger of Harrods have all failed. Some analysts believe a demerger could be worth up to 200p a share to Fraser.

The M&G Group, one of the city's biggest financial institutions, also demergered yesterday as it was planning to sell its 17 million Fraser shares. Dealers reported heavy demand for the shares yesterday and renewed call option business.

The rest of the equity market began the run-up to Christmas

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for Issue Name, Price, and % Change.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for Fund Name, Price, and % Change.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for Country, Price, and % Change.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for Authority Name, Price, and % Change.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for Stock Name, Price, and % Change.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for Bank Name, Price, and % Change.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS table with columns for Company Name, Price, and % Change.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for Company Name, Price, and % Change.

High Low Company Price Chgs pence % P/E table.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward table with columns for Market Rate, December 19, and 1 month.

Money Market Rates table with columns for Rate, 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months.

Other Markets table with columns for Market Name, Price, and % Change.

Dollar Spot Rates table with columns for Country, Price, and % Change.

Euro \$ Deposits table with columns for Term, Price, and % Change.

Gold table with columns for Price, % Change, and other details.

Investment Trusts table with columns for Trust Name, Price, and % Change.

Plantations table with columns for Company Name, Price, and % Change.

Miscellaneous table with columns for Company Name, Price, and % Change.

Unlisted Securities table with columns for Security Name, Price, and % Change.

Unlisted Securities table with columns for Security Name, Price, and % Change.

Unlisted Securities table with columns for Security Name, Price, and % Change.

SHIPPING

Shipping table with columns for Line, Ship Name, and Destination.

MINES

Mines table with columns for Company Name, Price, and % Change.

OIL

Oil table with columns for Company Name, Price, and % Change.

PROPERTY

Property table with columns for Property Name, Price, and % Change.

PLANTATIONS

Plantations table with columns for Company Name, Price, and % Change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous table with columns for Company Name, Price, and % Change.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Unlisted Securities table with columns for Security Name, Price, and % Change.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, including 'THE TIMES 1000 1983/84', 'The World's Top Companies', and 'Genera look'.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

General insurance groups look to their lifeline

The long drawn out battle for control of Eagle Star between BAT Industries and Allianz Versicherungs was drawn out a little further by the Takeover Panel yesterday.

Forgetting defensive mergers forged in fear, the boards of our leading composites might profitably look to coordinating some of their activities, especially in overseas markets where a combined clout would certainly ring more bells.

In a brief statement the panel indicated that there will be a full meeting of its members tomorrow to consider the procedure which should be adopted to deal with rival offers.

There is however, a greater disposition now to consider the value of insurance companies in relation to the market prices of their shares. It is not conceivable that an insurance company would fall to a bidder at less than its net asset value.

Mr John Hignett, director general of the panel, concentrated on two themes. As The Times reported yesterday the favoured option is to arrange a one-day auction, after which there would be no further bidding for a specified period.

Confirming observations I made in this column just over two weeks ago, one of the industry's leading figures has written pointing to the contrast between share prices depressed by earnings figures and the recent rapid rise in the companies' net worth - in some instances by over 50 per cent.

Whatever the final decision the panel's delay in offering guidance to the companies involved and their shareholders is adding to the general confusion in the market where Eagle Star shares closed 12p higher yesterday at 731p.

"This has been largely due", he points out, "to the combination of sound investment policies and rising stock market prices, but whatever the reason the total return to shareholders has been considerably greater than is apparent solely through the conventionally accepted criterion of the profit and loss account. Moreover, the substantial growth in life business such as has been seen this year is only very partially reflected in earnings in the year of acquisition and yet is a reliable source of future growth in earnings."

At another level, that of management, BAT would have nothing like the headache of Allianz. The German company's hope of justifying the acquisition of Eagle Star must rest in anything other than the long term on the efforts of the existing senior managers.

The value of the composite companies' expanding life insurance business is especially interesting. This business might not exist as far as the accounts presented to shareholders are concerned, yet if the astute analysts at brokers Wood, Mackenzie have done their sums correctly - and they usually do - the life business of the two leading general offices, Royal Insurance and Commercial Union, are currently worth £400m in balance sheet terms. CU shares on that basis are currently selling at a discount of 50 per cent to their net asset value.

Of wider significance than Eagle Star's fate is the ripples it will cause in the British insurance pond, especially if Allianz carries the day.

Pegi's Sou in demand

Mr Chooi Mun Sou arrived in London this morning and will play a significant part in the future of Britain's beleaguered tyre company, Dunlop. Mr Sou is the legal adviser and director designate for the Malaysian Pegi group, holders of 27 per cent of the Dunlop equity.

record under the outgoing chairman, Sir Campbell Fraser, prompted the £82m agreement with Sumitomo of Japan. Dunlop not only sold its European tyre operations, it also sold its 40 per cent stake in Sumitomo.

Dunlop had been expecting Pegi to hand over £55m in cash for the remaining 51 per cent of Dunlop Malaysian Industries, but that deal fell through last Friday. Pegi still owes Dunlop a further £43m for the Malaysian plantation interests. Although this deal was renegotiated in July a serious question mark now hangs over it.

Pegi's senior executives so far have responded coldly to Sarasin's proposals but the Malaysians may not be as strong a position as they make out. The Malaysian Foreign Investment Committee is unhappy about such large sums leaving a country which is pursuing a local majority ownership policy for foreign companies operating there.

Both sums would have had a favourable impact on Dunlop's debt mountain of £400m. That, and Dunlop's poor trading

Even with Sir Maurice Hodgson in Sir Campbell's seat there is some argument whether a man of his stature and experience can achieve much unless he cuts away large pieces of the remaining business with the intention of merging or selling off a profitable residue. If that proved to be so, Pegi's interests might be worth far less than it thought.

Scott Lithgow to challenge £86m oil rig cancellation

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow is to challenge yesterday's long-awaited cancellation of an £86m oil rig for a consortium headed by Britoil.

The rig, owned by Lloyds Leasing but contracted to Ben Odeco and Britoil, was due for completion in April. But it is only 50 per cent complete and already more than 500 days behind schedule.

The Britoil statement said four offers to renegotiate the contract had been refused and the obvious implication is that Britoil is blaming British Shipbuilders for forcing the cancellation.

In a terse reply to the announcement a Scott Lithgow spokesman said: "We do not regard it as validly given under the contract. We intend to challenge it and are examining the contractual position with our legal advisers."

Dr Norman Goodman, the Greenock and Port Glasgow Labour MP, is seeking an adjournment debate and a meeting with Mrs Thatcher. Mr Donald Dewar, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, said the Government should use its 48 per cent stake in Britoil to keep the order with the yard.

Shopstewards from the yard meet Mr Younger today, but it is believed he will refuse to intercede.

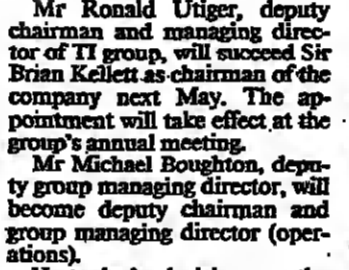
Bankers cut back on credit

Basle (Reuters) - Banks have further reduced their credit lines to most foreign borrowers in the first half of 1983, reflecting the international debt crisis and stagnation of world trade.



Successor story: Ronald Utiger (left) and Sir Brian Kelleff

The average length of loans also stretched out further, mainly because the banks refused to renew some short-term credits falling due and because they had to reschedule the debts of countries unable to repay.



Successor story: Ronald Utiger (left) and Sir Brian Kelleff

The twice-yearly BIS report on international debts showed that the amount of credit which the banks of leading nations had pledged to the rest of the world but had not yet paid out fell by \$2.8 billion during the first six months of the year.

Mr Ronald Utiger, deputy chairman and managing director of TI group, will succeed Sir Brian Kelleff as chairman of the company next May. The appointment will take effect at the group's annual meeting.

Total new lending to these countries at \$10 billion was only one-third as much as in the first half of 1982, a trend already apparent from earlier BIS quarterly debt reviews.

Mr Michael Boughton, deputy group managing director, will become deputy chairman and group managing director (operations).

Eastern Europe's net indebtedness to the banks fell by a huge \$11.9 billion, or a quarter, between the end of 1981 and mid-1983. But the BIS said the rate at which banks were cutting back their exposure to these countries was slowing.

Worst off was Poland, where a significant volume of maturing short-term loans was not extended during the first half of 1983. Its unused credit lines fell to 4.3 per cent of its outstanding debt, the worst ratio of all problem countries listed by the BIS.

Most new borrowing by Brazil, the Third World's largest debtor, was for periods longer than two years, reflecting the rescheduling of its debt.

Mr Utiger was favourite for the job when TI indicated that it was looking for a new chairman in autumn last year. However, the selection committee set up to find the successor hired headquarters to seek possible candidates from outside. The main argument against Mr Utiger was age - he is 57.

Mexico, the first big country hit by the debt crisis in 1982, was able to borrow about \$1.3 billion on a short-term basis. Further signs of its recovery were increases in its unused credit lines and its deposits with the banks.

Over the past three years Sir Brian has masterminded a big rationalization of the group which has seen the workforce cut by half to 32,000 and a change in the mix of its businesses away from the heavy end of the engineering industry towards consumer products.

Venezuela and Chile, however, received fewer short-term loans and their undischarged credit also declined. Venezuela's unused credit was down to 4.8 per cent of its debt, the lowest ratio in Latin America.

Individual countries in Asia (excluding Japan), where unused credit lines rose by \$1.9 billion showed the relatively good credit standing of most nations in the region.

Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Taiwan, China, Mexico and Algeria were the only important borrowers outside the group of leading non-communist nations to record marked increases in their undischarged credit facilities.

Top performer was China, whose unused loan pledges were nearly two-and-a-half times as large as the amount of money it had actually borrowed. Its deposits with foreign banks at mid-year also exceeded its debts by nearly \$10 billion.

The banks' undischarged credit commitments to the whole of the rest of the world represented only 16.6 per cent of total outstanding debt at mid-1983. This was nearly 12 percentage points lower than five years ago.

South Pacific was 39 unchanged; Honeywell 136%, up 1%; Barrages 48%, down 4%; Motorola 133%, up 1%; Abbott Laboratories 45%, up 1.

Approval of the Fulmar development is a confirmation that the oil industry is being left to devise methods of bringing gas from the central sector of the North Sea.

An earlier proposal for a joint industry-Government gas gathering pipeline was abandoned after the Government insisted that the scheme should be financed outside the Government borrowing requirement without Treasury guarantees for loans already approved by a consortium of banks led by the Bank of Scotland.



Alick Buchanan-Smith

Smith, said yesterday: "I am keen to see companies themselves develop plans and invest in gas gathering. I hope that the British steel industry will take advantage of this project to build up its share in onshore construction work."

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No dividend after record loss at JFB

By Jonathan Davis Financial Correspondent

Johnson and Firth Brown, the Sheffield special steel and engineering group, reported a record loss of £10.9m yesterday and said it was passing all its dividend payments for the year.

But Mr Roy Shephard, the group's new chief executive, said that while it faced a long haul, the company appeared to have turned the corner and was likely to have a much better year this year.

"Anything as sick as JFB is not going to get better overnight, but I am absolutely confident that over a three to five year period we can return it to a respectable level of profits and start to pay shareholders dividends once again."

The pretax loss in the year to the end of September was more than double the previous year's £4.8m. Of this, £8.9m was attributable to JFB's 50 per cent share in the loss of Sheffield Forgemasters joint venture with British Steel.

As the joint venture is an associate company, the losses were not a cash drain on JFB, but did result in a £12m transfer from reserves, increasing the company's gearing from 57 to 64 per cent.

Last year's bitter 24-week strike at Greening, JFB's Warrington metal engineering subsidiary, cost £1.6m, and although Greening's order book is now back to 75 per cent of its pre-strike level, it will lose money again this year.

Mr Shephard said that even a small upturn in the economy would have a considerable impact on the group's profit and loss account. He said that the banks had been very patient during the company's crisis, and it had succeeded in reducing its borrowings marginally.

At the operating level, before interest payments, JFB recorded a small profit of £1.6m, against £200,000 the previous year, with the lion's share coming from its special steels division.

The setting up of the Forgemasters joint venture in 1982 resulted in the main group's turnover dropping from £161m to £102m.

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Index hits record high

Selective support for blue chips and the various bid situations kept the equity market on the boil yesterday. The FT Index closed at a new high 2.8 up to 762.1. The previous record of 760.2 was set last week.

A rise of 9p in shares of Bowater to a new high of 254p was mainly responsible for the FT maintaining its momentum in these quiet conditions. Dealers are speculating that a bid from across the Atlantic may soon be on the way. Others to draw support included Grand Metropolitan 7p to 348p, while Distillers on 121p, Hawker Siddeley on 360p, TI Group on 464p and Vickers on 122p all added 2p apiece.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 762.1 up 2.8; FT 100 Index: 82.64 up 0.30; FT All Shares: 453.5 up 1.04; Dow Jones: 19,280; Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.08 up 0.15; New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1247.97 up 5.80; Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,484.17 down 81.47; Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 857.25 down 3.52; Amsterdam: 155.4 unchanged; Sydney: AO Index: 755.7 down 0.4; Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1018.3 up 10.2; Brussels: General Index: 134.48 up 0.61; Zurich: SKA General: 307.30 up 0.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling: \$1.4185 up 55pts; Index: 82.1 up 0.2; DM: 3.9350 up 0.0050; FF: 11.9950 up 0.01; Yen: 335.25 up 1.75; Dollar Index: 131.2 up 0.1; DM: 2.7730 down 0.0047; NEW YORK LATEST Sterling: \$1.4170; Dollar: DM 2.7720; INTERNATIONAL SDR: 57.682; SDR: 732.164

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rate: 10%; Finance houses base rate: 9 1/4%; Discount market loans: week fixed: 8%; 3 month interbank: 9 1/4-9 1/2%; Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar: 10 1/4-10 1/2%; 3 month DM: 6 1/2-6 3/4%; 3 month FR: 14-13 1/4; US rates: Bank prime rate: 11.00; Fed funds: 9 1/4%; Treasury long bond: 100 1/2-100 3/4%

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): \$378.65 pm; \$375 close; \$374.75-\$375.50 (264-264.50); New York (latest): \$375.50; Kruggerand (per coin): \$385-\$387.50 (2272-2273.00); Sovereigns (new): \$98-\$99 (262-262.75); *Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

\$300m Qatar claim for arbitration

Arbitration proceedings begin in Paris early next year over a \$300m claim for damages against Shell and Whesoo, the process plant contracting group, by the Qatar Petroleum Producing Authority.

The claim follows a fire at the Umm Said natural gas liquids plant in Qatar in 1977. Shell was project manager and Whesoo a sub-contractor.

Whesoo, which reported increased pretax profits of £6.8m, against £6.5m, for the year to September 24, said there is nothing the company can do to provide against the outcome of the case. Even provision against 10 per cent of the claim would amount to the group's net worth.

Investors' Notebook, page 16

Sterling pulls back half a cent of losses

By Wayne Lintott

The pound managed to recoup half a cent to close at 1.4185 against the dollar in quiet trading yesterday, having been a further half cent higher earlier in the day.

The Deutschmark and Swiss franc also regained part of last week's losses as European foreign exchange markets kept trading to a minimum.

But the dollar once more began surging ahead when New York entered business in the later afternoon.

The Bank of England was not thought to have intervened on any significant scale, but in Frankfurt the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, sold a further \$52.75m in an effort to bolster its flagging currency.

The dollar once again finished at its best level against the mark at 2.7730.

The French franc fared slightly better, gaining a couple of centimes to 8.4515 to the dollar. The yen, still weakened by the Liberia Democrats' failure to gain a majority in the Japanese election battle, continued lower to 236.25.

Once again the prospect of higher US interest rates bolstered the dollar. Dealers said last Friday's US\$5.5 billion rise in the weekly money supply had been discounted, but today's meeting of the policymaking Federal Open Market Committee would be more significant.

It will indicate whether pressure is to be applied to bring rates down and cut the deficit

£315m gas project will benefit steel industry

Go-ahead for North Sea pipeline

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Department of Energy has given approval for the development of an 180 mile-long gas pipeline from the North Sea Fulmar field operated by Shell and Esso.

The £315m pipeline would provide work for British Steel pipe manufacturing plant at Hartlepool. It is the eleventh big North Sea project to be approved this year.

The Department of Energy is also likely to give approval to development of the Beatrice "C" project before the end of next week, confirming previous government predictions that British industry will benefit by as much as £1 billion from a resurgence of activity in North Sea.

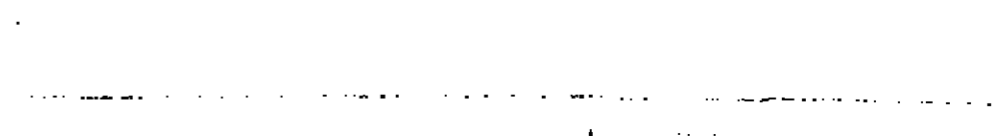
The approval for the Shell-Esso development of the Fulmar field confirms previous announcements by the two companies - they operate in the North Sea under a partnership agreement - that they will spend as much as £800m on the development of gas and oil fields by the end of the decade.

The Fulmar pipeline will involve construction of plant at the St Fergus base south of Aberdeen. It will also be used as the "spine" pipeline for the development of other North Sea gas fields which are now being considered by the oil companies.

The Clyde Field operated by Britoil will be connectable to the pipeline. The pipeline has become viable because of taxation changes in the last Budget and by a hardening of natural gas prices paid to the oil companies.

The Minister of State for Energy, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, said yesterday: "I am keen to see companies themselves develop plans and invest in gas gathering. I hope that the British steel industry will take advantage of this project to build up its share in onshore construction work."

Norcros p.l.c. pre-tax profit up 11% Ken Roberts, Chairman, reports: Confidence in achieving the forecast pre-tax profit for the current year. Interim dividend up 10.6% to 2.3p. Financial summary for the half year to 30th September 1983



Britannic Assurance in trust takeover

By Wayne Listott

Britannic Assurance surprised the stock market yesterday when it announced an agreed all-share offer for the Midland Trust at a level equivalent of full net asset value, a hefty premium over the value ruling in the market.

The complicated bid basically values Midland at £8.9m against a pre-announcement value of £5.6m. Britannic already owns 33.3 per cent of Midland through its own holdings - it has been a shareholder since 1929 - and those of its pension funds. Coupled to irrevocable acceptances already received, Britannic has acceptances of 50.9 per cent.

Britannic is to offer enough of its own shares, down 8p at 450p, for each Midland, up 63p at 198p, to gain control when the bid goes unconditional. That means that Midland

shareholders will not know exactly how many Britannic shares they are to receive but on a rule-of-thumb calculation the offer works out at about one-for-two.

The precise terminology is Britannic Ordinary stock units - taken at 458p - equivalent to the value of 109.1 per cent of the net asset value per Midland Ordinary. The net asset value will be determined when the bid is declared unconditional to a precise formula.

A cash alternative is being provided through the adviser, S. G. Warburg, which will arrange to place any Britannic shares Midland shareholders accept for cash.

Midland is an authorized investment trust consisting entirely of shares quoted on the London stock exchange.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Hampton Gold Mining Areas: Six months to June 30, 1983. Interim dividend 1p (same). Figures to £000s. Turnover 6,189 (4,675). Trading profit 322 (248). Investment income and interest received 654 (504). Royalties 528 (227). Exploration costs 6 (240). Profit on investments sale nil (3). Pre-tax profit 1,523 (784). Shares 200 down 3.

A Monk & Co: Half year to August 31, 1983. Interim dividend 2p (1.5p) to reduce disparity. Company anticipates total for the current year of not less than the 6.0p per share paid last year. Figures to £000s. Turnover 52,000 (45,000). P/a profit 1,137 (1,375). Tax 398 (344). Minorities nil (72). Shares 122 down 1.

Farral Bridges: Six months to June 6, 1983. Figures to £000s. Turnover 5,763 (3,460). Trading profit 378 (30 loss). Interest payable 12 (27). Pretax profit 366 (57 loss). Tax 97 (credit 73).

Whessoe seeks to bridge AGR gap

Whessoe remains an interesting investment opportunity after producing a £300,000 increase in pretax profits to £5.8m in the year to September 24.

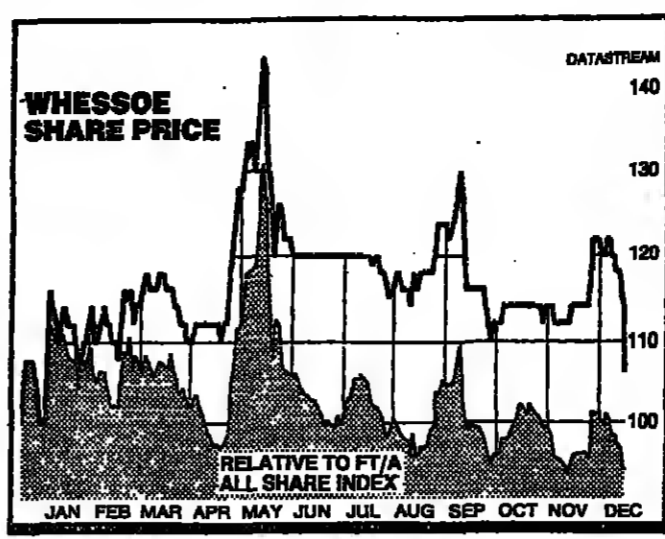
This was on turnover of £111.3m against £98.1m last time. The orderbook at the process plant engineering group, at £300m is identical to last year's with the £75m of orders coming in compensating for the contracts completed during the year.

Good and bad news for shareholders is the near completion of the £130m orders for the heavy engineering work at the Heysham and Torness advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) nuclear power stations.

The contracts will be completed by next spring apart from some routine maintenance and service work. But because Whessoe prefers to defer taking profits from such work until it is completed the benefits will not show through until 1984 and 1985.

Whessoe's problem is filling the gap left by the completion of these orders. Mr William Smart, the chairman reports that the group is better placed than a year ago to pick up orders having completed a £5m restructuring at its Darlington plant which has seen numbers reduced from 800 to 300 and the installation of computer numerically controlled machinery increasing efficiency sixfold.

But the key to the group's success hinges upon its ability to translate the increase to order



inquiries into contracts. On the offshore side this is already beginning to show with work on a £13m contract to provide British Gas with a new module nearly completed and strong inquiries from other energy companies.

Elsewhere, the light engineering division has managed to maintain pretax profits at the £850,000 level, despite a grim marketplace, while the Australian and Canadian divisions also traded in the black.

The backlog turned out to be the high pressure pipework division at Alton where a £1.5m provision was necessary to cover the increasing costs of contracts which are taken on a five-year timespan.

Another shadow over the group is the threatened \$300m writ for damages from Qatar

Timber, which disclosed a return to profits. Yesterday it was the turn of the timber importer May & Hassell, where the recovery gathered pace in the half-year to September 30, leading to a more than tenfold rise in pretax profits from £126,000 to £1.19m.

May & Hassell took action during its last financial year to rationalize the timber importing side of its business, including closing its loss-making Cardiff operation.

Mr Peter Atley, chairman, is therefore predicting that the half-year improvement will be more than maintained in the full-year results and the group's confidence is reflected in a 23 per cent rise in the interim dividend from 1.3p to 1.6p net.

During the first half, May & Hassell managed a small reduction in interest charges from £1.19m to £1m and the group has also benefited from rising timber prices and improved profit margins. Turnover in the six months rose by 20 per cent from £28.7m to £34.5m.

The group has now bought the remaining 50 per cent of Hallam Group, although in the first half it turned in another disappointing performance. May & Hassell's half-share of its losses amounted to £67,000 compared with £65,000 in the whole of 1982-1983.

However, the market was prepared to overlook this and the shares rose 15p to 113p in response to the results.

COMMODITIES

Mar 84	255.00-256.00	Mar 84	1438.00
Apr 84	255.00-256.00	Apr 84	1438.00
May 84	255.00-256.00	May 84	1438.00
Jun 84	255.00-256.00	Jun 84	1438.00
Jul 84	255.00-256.00	Jul 84	1438.00
Aug 84	255.00-256.00	Aug 84	1438.00
Sep 84	255.00-256.00	Sep 84	1438.00
Oct 84	255.00-256.00	Oct 84	1438.00
Nov 84	255.00-256.00	Nov 84	1438.00
Dec 84	255.00-256.00	Dec 84	1438.00

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION: Average last week's price for representative market on December 20:

Beef, 1st cut, 100 lb	152.00
Beef, 2nd cut, 100 lb	148.00
Lamb, 1st cut, 100 lb	155.00
Lamb, 2nd cut, 100 lb	150.00
Pork, 1st cut, 100 lb	145.00
Pork, 2nd cut, 100 lb	140.00

Nash Industries: Results for year to September 30, 1983. Final dividend 2.5p making up 14.973 (11.751). Trading profit 881 (604). Interest 205 (190). Pretax profit 676 (414). Shares 66p up 2p.

Arbuthnot Yen Bond Fund Limited

(A Company Incorporated with limited liability in Jersey on 24th February, 1983 under the provisions of The Companies (Jersey) Laws 1981 to 1983)

Share Capital	
Issued and fully paid as at 30th November, 1983	Yen 20,000
Authorized	Yen 7,980,000

100 Founders shares of 200 yen each in 7,980,000 unclassified shares of 1 yen each of which:

- 1,171,562 are in issue as Capital Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of 1 yen each
- 3,492,957 are in issue as Income Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of 1 yen each

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for admission to the Official List of all the Participating Redeemable Preference Shares in issue and available to be issued. Particulars of the Company are available in the External Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Public Holidays excepted) up to and including 6th January, 1984 from:-

Arbuthnot Securities Limited,
131 Finsbury Pavement,
Moorgate, London EC2A 1AY.

Cazenove & Co.,
12 Trenchard House, Yard,
London EC2R 7AN.

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Douglas Tweedale on the Herculean tasks facing the new government in Buenos Aires

How Alfonsín plans to bring Argentina back from the brink

At a press conference last week, someone asked Argentina's new economy minister, Señor Bernardo Grinspum, exactly how much money the country owed its foreign creditors.

At first Señor Grinspum was silent, then came a rueful grin and the answer: "That's what I'd like to know."

If anything, the minister's reply was simply an accurate indication of the magnitude of the economic crisis. President Raúl Alfonsín faces after taking power from a discredited military regime.

For Argentines tired after more than seven years of repression and a violent military rule, Señor Alfonsín's inauguration on December 10 was a moment of euphoria, celebrated by thousands who danced in the streets until dawn.

A new mood of optimism and confidence took hold of the country and was reflected even in Buenos Aires' thriving currency black market, usually an accurate barometer of the financial climate.

The "parallel" exchange rate for the dollar has not risen at all since Señor Alfonsín was elected on October 30, while the spread between the official and black market rates has closed from nearly 100 per cent a few months ago to just 6 per cent now.

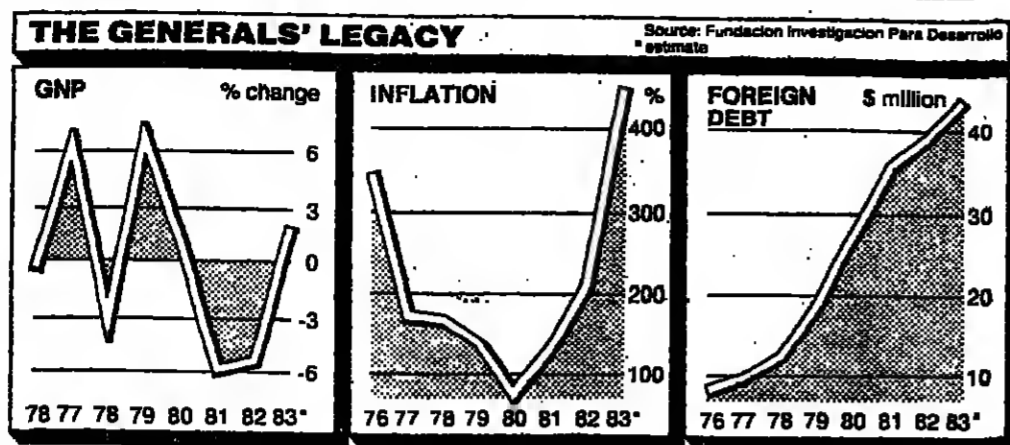
Last Friday the Argentine President went on television to give the first details of his economic plans. These include tax reforms, a national food programme and a pledge to make a sharp cut in the country's budget deficit.

"Today we have begun a battle to defeat inflation and reactivate the economy," he declared. Behind that confidence, however, is the reality of the crisis which Señor Alfonsín must solve if he is to fulfil his campaign promise to bring "100 years of peace and prosperity" to Argentina.

The foreign debt, Latin America's largest after Brazil and Mexico, tops the list of problems. Private economists estimate it will be in the neighbourhood of \$45 billion by the year's end and the Government is already nearly \$10 billion in arrears. Another \$9 billion in interest and principal payments fall due during Señor Alfonsín's first year in office.

Nor are prospects much brighter on the domestic front, with inflation calculated at almost 450 per cent for 1983 and still rising.

Domestic industry, hit hard by the military government's policy of unrestricted imports, is operating at less than 60 per cent of capacity, and problems with the foreign debt have virtually paralyzed commercial credit necessary to import vital



industrial materials. Total unemployment and underemployment is at about 10 per cent and the state's budget deficit is an unprecedented 15 per cent of gnp.

To tackle this mess, President Alfonsín has engaged the services of a team of neo-Keynesian economists from the traditional wing of his Radical Party who have said that their main virtue will be a pragmatic approach to the country's problems.

Señor Grinspum is a specialist in trade and finance issues who was at the head of the central bank during the last Radical government in 1963. The new central bank president, Señor Enrique García Vazquez, was formerly vice-president of the same institution.

According to Radical Party sources, the New government will have a two-pronged strategy: stop-gap measures aimed at resolving the most immediate problems and buying time for the implementation of a longer-term programme.

The new package of measures indicates that the new regime has quickly diagnosed what

needs to be done and is making the kind of noises that the West should like. Señor Alfonsín said that the Government was aiming for 5 per cent economic growth next year, and added that it wanted to cut the budget deficit to 4 per cent. The programme would include cuts in the defence budget. Whether Señor Alfonsín can carry it through is another matter.

The government's first action was to slap price controls on a long list of consumer goods to try to counter "excessive" price rises in recent weeks.

Government officials have repeatedly said of the foreign debt that the Alfonsín administration will do its best to meet its obligations, if this does not interfere with the development of the domestic economy.

That philosophy was put into practice last week, as amid some confusion Señor Alfonsín's government told foreign creditor banks that it was unable to renegotiate \$8 billion in public sector debt as previously agreed and asked for six months' grace in which to reschedule a total of \$19 billion of debt falling due between 1982 and 1984.

Foreign bankers interpreted the move as an effort to establish a strong negotiating position from which to seek compromise on repayment terms. "We are going to see six months of a poker game, in which each side tries to out-bluff the other," said a Buenos Aires executive of an American bank. "Eventually, both sides will have to give in a bit to reach an acceptable solution."

The government will also seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund in repaying the debt. A high official of the Alfonsín administration, possibly the central bank president Señor García Vazquez, is expected to travel to Washington soon to seek reactivation of a \$1.65 billion stand-by agreement which lapsed in September when the military government failed to meet the economic targets set out in the agreement.

Reducing the budget deficit may prove as equally Herculean a task for President Alfonsín. The new treasury officials have reportedly not even been able to determine its exact size, let alone start to trim it. With Argentina's overgrown public sector representing 45 per cent of gnp, some experts estimate that the state's deficit could be as high as 15 per cent of gnp.

Despite this daunting prospect the government believes it has found the key to boosting needed social spending without fueling inflation: this is the country's military budget, which is believed to account for 40 per cent of total state spending.

President Alfonsín plans to use all the political power which his 52 per cent electoral victory gives him to cut back the military budget, taking advantage of the armed forces' considerable unpopularity at the moment to bring them under tight control, politically and economically.

Whether this strategy bears fruit before the inevitable erosion of any government's popularity sets in will depend on the political acumen and economic imagination of the president's advisers. But, as one businessman said, "Even if Alfonsín accomplishes nothing else, if he controls the military, he will have gone a long way towards solving the country's problems."

Officials have been unable to determine the size of the deficit, let alone trim it

Recovery depends on steady grain prices, goodwill from abroad and a little luck

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interest payments on the debt. Most bankers agree that with steady world grain prices, continued good harvests, goodwill from foreign governments and a little luck in re-scheduling problem loans, Argentina could overcome its debt crisis in a few years.

The task of rebuilding the domestic economy, reeled by recession and inflation, will be more difficult.

President Alfonsín faces the equally important but contradictory goals of trying to revive Argentina's prostrate industry and implement much-needed social programmes while at the same time having to fight inflation by cutting back public spending.

The Radical Party economist had devised a plan to reduce inflation which was based on the reduction of the public sector deficit, and lower interest rates, but also relied heavily on the cooperation of private business and labour in pricing and wage agreements, the fact that it had to impose 48-day price controls in the last few days indicates that the government may be off to a bad start with the business community and that its hoped-for social pact may be in danger.

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Financial notebook

Exit Clive Thornton to mixed reviews

The flies on the walls at the Building Societies Association (BSA) say that Mr Clive Thornton received a warm ovation from his colleagues at his last council meeting before leaving the Abbey National to head the Mirror Group.

Whether it was an ovation of relief or of gratitude, no one was telling. Gratitude is generally felt by many involved in housing finance who found Mr Thornton's influence stimulating. Even those with a cynical eye to the publicity purpose behind his bold statements saw him as a useful catalyst to other societies.

Sighs of relief, by contrast, may well have been heard out just from those traditionalists who distrust the whole basis of the new competitive approach amongst societies. For even if one accepts all the arguments for freer markets in housing finance and savings, it is questionable how much longer Mr Thornton's "thinking the unthinkable" in public could have helped the cause of progress.

Three main strands can be distinguished from his many public statements and initiatives over the past five years: First, and foremost, his original desire to involve building societies more directly in housing renovation, in inner city revival and in building itself.

Second, his memorable patenting of the Granny Bond name to challenge head on the Government's attack with index-linked investments of the societies' staple retail savings market - a move which became symbolic, if not necessarily the cause, of the rapid expansion in premium savings products by societies over the past three years.

Third, his challenge to the BSA's recommended rate structure. The first two of these themes have long ceased to make oews.

Competition for savings on premium products is now an established part of building societies' operations. They account for almost all of their net inflows against one-third in 1980. Their growth indeed reflects the natural evolution of market pressures.

These pressures are consistently stronger on demand for mortgage finance, which continues to outstrip supply. Attractive net-of-tax interest costs and the expansion of home-ownership keep up that pressure. Building societies naturally concentrate their creative energies on devising smarter ways to raise their share of the supply.

It was clear thus. Only the methods change. A decade ago the way was through expanding branch networks to increase customer flow; today the way lies through designing premium and wholesale savings products, combined with tighter margin control.

As for setting the "building" role back into building societies, to revive one of Mr Thornton's favourite early quotations, that has moved from the press notice in the drawing-board, from the headline to the bottom line. It is now down to hard graft at street and site level.

Several societies besides the Abbey National have been quietly setting up the necessary systems, vehicles and staff to fulfil this wider housing role. Their scale of operations is still small, when set against the total housing finance market and the press fanfare which preceded it. It all takes time, patience, skill and solid work - mundane but effective qualities which do not offer natural headline material.

Not surprisingly, the media attention in recent months has been focused on Mr Thornton's third main theme - his challenge to the grip of the so-called BSA "cartel". That grip has been loosened. As

from October 21, the association no longer recommends it "advises". Members are no longer obliged to inform the association 28 days in advance of a change in their rates on short-call money.

This move provoked the rumour that the Abbey might be the first society to make the full break by cutting unilaterally its base rate. Comment and counter-comment from several of the major societies flew thick and fast across the news pages. Nothing has happened. Money flows in and out of the societies at rising and record levels, and the basic mortgage and share rates stay at 11 1/2 per cent and 7 1/2 per cent respectively.

Highlights is an easy game. Yet did any serious analyst of housing finance believe those rumours that Mr Thornton would go on with the big bang of a unilateral mortgage rate cut by the Abbey National before the new year?

It would have been commercial lunacy, even if other money market rates had turned lower, for a society to cut the price of a mortgage product for which demand was buoyant and price inelastic. And doubly so if that would effectively have meant increasing its price on the savings product, demand for which has become almost electrically sensitive to marginal price movements.

The first leading society which truly breaks the BSA "cartel" is unlikely to cut its mortgage rate in advance of its competitors; rather it will be, in very different circumstances from today, the society which unilaterally raises its savings rates. Then it will be responding, of course, to early signs of a serious mortgage shortage. Plus ça change...

The author is economist with the National Federation of Building Trades Employers. Jamie Stevenson

New chief at Austin and Pickersgill

British Shipbuilders: Mr K. Douglas, managing director of Austin and Pickersgill, Sunderland, is retiring on January 1. He will be succeeded by Mr G. H. Parker, who is divisional managing director of ship repair at British Shipbuilders, and will continue in this position on a

part-time basis until the end of January. Mr P. C. M. Thompson, who is an secondment to British Shipbuilders from the Department of Trade and

Industry, will become corporation secretary on January 1. He succeeds Mr F. E. Neale, who will become commercial director of Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering. Britoil: Mr Robert Speirs will become director of finance and planning next May.

APPOINTMENTS

Table with 2 columns: Bank Name and Interest Rate. Includes ABN Bank, Barclays, BCCI, Citibank, etc.

Losses continue at Volkswagen. Hamburg, (Reuters) - Volkswagenwerk (VW) expects 1983 group turnover to rise to around DM 4 billion (£987m) from DM 37.4 billion last year, a company spokesman said. But another net loss of DM 300m is feared.

Interim profits jump 67% at Halma

Halma, whose interest include anti-terrorist security equipment and environmental control products, has reported first-half profits 67 per cent up on the same period last year.

Mr David Barber, chairman and managing director, forecast record profits for the full year. Pre-tax profits in the six months to October 1 jumped to £12.7m on turnover up from £7.8m to £9.75m in its last full year.

During the half Halma brought Wilkinson and Simpson, which makes chemical tablets for water testing. The purchase price was about £1m, subject to W & S's profits to March 1984 and it also bought Apollo Manufacturing, which makes smoke detectors, for £323,500.

The company's subsidiaries have all produced good profits, except for Argosy Fenton, a manufacturer of louvers and smoke venting equipment for the construction industry. Its closure in November should help the balance sheet in the second half.

WALL STREET table with columns for various stock indices and prices.

National Computer Competition

Early in the New Year, following the success of The Times Classroom Computer Competition, which attracted thousands of entries, Computer Horizons will be launching a national competition open to all. The aim of the competition is to find the best original use of a microcomputer for a socially useful purpose, which could be a novel computer program or the innovative use of a computer peripheral. Contestants, who may represent schools, colleges, clubs

or associations or enter as individuals, will be required to provide a proposal in no more than 1000 words for judging on a regional basis. Ten regional winners, with runners-up, will be selected and the ten winners will take part next Easter in a national final at the London Computer Festival. There will be valuable prizes and the national winners will have the opportunity of demonstrating their applications at the Festival. Full details will be published next month.

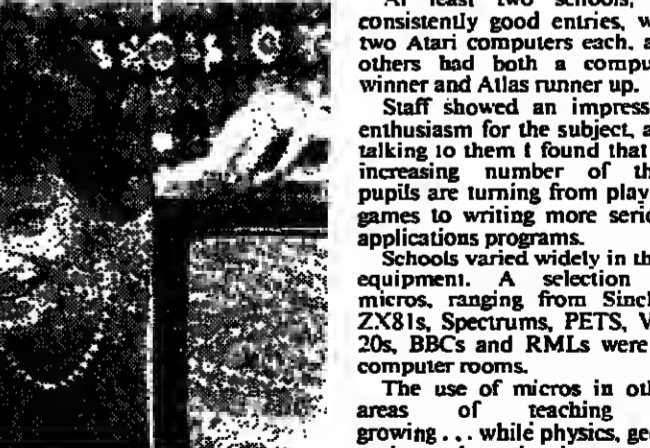
Spencer and Sarah are the final winners

A boy aged 13 and a 15-year-old girl are the winners of The Times Classroom Computer Competition. They are Spencer Doane of The Wells House School, Malvern Wells, Worcester, and Sarah Turner of Dr Challoner's High School, Buckinghamshire.

The eight runners-up are Mark Whitehouse, Worle School, Westoo-super-Mare, Avon; Alastair George, Herts & Essex High School, Bishops Stortford; Rachel Thomson, C. J. B. B. The winners will both receive an Atari 600XL computer for their schools, and personal gift of The Times Atlas of World History.



SPENCER DOANE, 13, uses his Commodore 64 at home with his two brothers. They are now attempting to write their first programs, being content up to now to play games. He enjoys plastic modelling, carpentry and metal detecting. At school he is captain of the rugby team and enjoys shooting and archery. At present, computing is to his infancy at school, where they have available one PET and one BBC micro, but long term plans are for using micros for specific subjects in a network of configuration.



SARAH TURNER, 16, plays the inevitable games on a Spectrum, but is now hoping to use it in a Young Enterprise project she is running with a local group. They are now marketing plastic modelling, carpentry and metal detecting. At school he is captain of the rugby team and enjoys shooting and archery. At present, computing is to his infancy at school, where they have available one PET and one BBC micro, but long term plans are for using micros for specific subjects in a network of configuration.

The use of micros in other areas of teaching is growing... while physics, geography and maths departments are fairly common users, some of the more innovative schools are now offering word processing in their commercial studies classes, bypassing the conventional typewriting class. The results show that the spread of technology is not concentrated only in the South East. Some of the most innovative schools that I spoke to were situated in northern rural areas.

Video in business. (A businessman's guide) advertisement for REW Video, including contact information and a small illustration of a person at a computer.

AGOB advertisement featuring illustrations of a person in a futuristic suit and a person in a space suit, with the text 'WELL, IT'S CHRISTMAS!'.

Effect of clause in charterparty

Tor Line AB v Alltrans Group of Canada Ltd
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook

[Speeches delivered December 15]
The House of Lords considered the scope of clause 13 of the Baltimore charterparty in allowing an appeal by the charterers, Tor Line AB from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dillon and Sir Denis Buckley) (*The Times* April 8, 1983) who on March 30, 1983 allowed an appeal by the owners, Alltrans Group of Canada Ltd from the judgment on January 20, 1982 of Mr Justice Bingham (*The Times* January 25, 1982; [1982] 1 Lloyd's Rep 617) who had held *inter alia* in favour of the charterers, that the umpire had come to the correct conclusion on the effect of the clause.

Clause 13 of the Baltimore form provides: "The owners only to be responsible for delay in delivery of the vessel or for delay during the currency of the charter and for loss or damage to goods on board, if such delay or loss has been caused by want of due diligence on the part of the owners or their manager in making the vessel seaworthy and fitted for the voyage or any other personal act or omission or default of the owners or their manager."

"The owners not to be responsible in any other case nor for damage or delay whatsoever and however caused even if caused by the neglect or default of their servants."

"The charterers to be responsible for loss or damage arising or resulting from strikes, lock-outs or stoppage or restraint of labour or vehicles (including the master, officers or crew) whether partial or general."

"The charterers to be responsible for loss or damage caused to the vessel or to the owners by goods loaded contrary to the terms of the charter or by improper or careless bunkering or loading, stowing or discharging of goods or any other improper or negligent act on their part or that of their servants."

The clause contained four separate sentences, but while each sentence was to be read as a whole and in particular the second sentence as protecting the owners against liability for the breach of clause 26, which in the umpire's and Mr Justice Bingham's view they undoubtedly committed.

However, there was nothing in the decided cases which would lead to a different conclusion from that which was reached solely upon the language of clause 13. It followed that upon its true construction clause 13 did not in any event afford the charterers a defence to the claim by the owners.

If clause 13 were to be construed so as to allow a breach of the warranties as to description in clause 26 to be committed or a failure to deliver the vessel at all to take place without financial redress to the charterers, the charter virtually ceased to be a contract for the letting of the vessel and the performance of services by the owners, their masters, officers and crew in consideration of the payment of time charter hire, and became no more than a statement of intent by the owners in return for which the charterers were obliged to pay large sums by way of hire, though if the owners failed to carry out their promises as to description or delivery, were entitled to nothing in return.

It was difficult to believe that that could accord with the true common intention of the parties and that conclusion could not stand with the true construction of the charter in which the parties were supposed to have expressed that true common intention in writing.

Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser, Lord Keith and Lord Brandon agreed.

Solicitors: Ingledew Brown Beniston & Garrett; Clyde & Co.

Applying those principles, without regard to any of the decided cases, it was not possible to construe clause 13 as a whole and in particular the second sentence as protecting the owners against liability for the breach of clause 26, which in the umpire's and Mr Justice Bingham's view they undoubtedly committed.

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There is... another rule of construction which one would bring to bear upon this charterparty, and that is, that one must see if this stipulation which we have got to construe is introduced by way of exception or in favour of one of the parties to the contract, and if so, we must take care not to give it an extension beyond what is fairly necessary, because those who wish to introduce words in a contract in order to shield themselves ought to do so in clear words."

Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser, Lord Keith and Lord Brandon agreed.

Solicitors: Ingledew Brown Beniston & Garrett; Clyde & Co.

Arresting ship as arbitration security

Re The Andria now renamed Vasso
Before Lord Justice Waller, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Robert Goff

[Judgment delivered December 19]

On an application by a plaintiff who had issued a writ in an action *in rem*, the admiralty court had jurisdiction to arrest a ship even when the plaintiff's purpose was simply to obtain security for an award in arbitration proceedings; but the intentions and conduct of the plaintiff in invoking that jurisdiction were matters to be taken into account by the court when deciding whether or not to exercise the power of arrest.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the owners of cargo lately on board the ship Andria now renamed Vasso, from the decision of Mr Justice Sheen on June 23, 1982, ordering that an undertaking given by the P & I Club of the vessel, given in order to procure the release of the ship arrested by the appellants, should be discharged.

Mr Roger Buckley, QC and Miss Hilary Heilbron for the appellants; Mr Julian Plaux for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellants had a claim against the respondents for damage to goods carried on board the ship Andria. After the commencement of proceedings in the High Court, the parties entered into an *ad hoc* arbitration agreement, after which arbitration proceedings were pursued in the ordinary way.

The respondents subsequently sold the ship, which was renamed Vasso, but since the appellants had issued an admiralty writ *in rem* while the vessel was still to the respondents' ownership, and had subsequently renewed it, the admiralty court's jurisdiction could be invoked in order to arrest the ship, thus providing security for the appellants' claim.

An affidavit in the usual form was filed and a warrant for the arrest of the ship was issued. However, no mention had been made in the affidavit of the parties' agreement to arbitrate.

After negotiation, the appellants agreed to release the ship on an undertaking from the respondent P & I Club, the United Kingdom Mutual Steam Ship Assurance Association (Bermuda) Ltd.

The respondents then applied by motion for a declaration that the admiralty court had had no jurisdiction to arrest the ship, and for an order discharging the undertaking given to the appellants.

Mr Justice Sheen held that since the only purpose in arresting the ship was to obtain security for any award ultimately made by the arbitrators, and not to hear and determine any claim, the court had not had jurisdiction to arrest the ship. He therefore ordered the undertaking to be discharged.

He based that decision on his own decision in *The Maritime Trader* ([1981] 2 Lloyd's Rep 153) in which he followed earlier decisions of Mr Justice Brandon (as he then was) in *The Cap Bon* ([1967] 1 Lloyd's Rep 343) and *The Rena K* ([1979] 1 QB 377).

His Lordship said that while the court had the greatest respect for any opinion expressed by Lord Brandon (as he now was), he was unable to agree with his view that the admiralty court had no jurisdiction to arrest a ship where the purpose of the plaintiff was simply to obtain security for an arbitration award.

His Lordship was unable to conceive of a case where the jurisdiction of the court depended on the purpose of the plaintiff in invoking it.

Where under sections 1(1) and 3(4) of the Administration of Justice Act 1956 (now sections 20(2) and 21(4) of the Supreme Court Act 1981) the court had jurisdiction to hear the type of claim *in rem* endorsed on the writ, then, under Order 75, rule 5 *et seq* of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the court

must have the power to arrest a ship.

But the exercise of that power was not mandatory, and it followed that the court's discretion in exercising the power might be affected by the manner in which, or the purpose for which, the plaintiff had proceeded.

On the law as it stood at present, the court's jurisdiction to arrest a ship in an action *in rem* should not be exercised for the purpose of providing security for an award which might be made in arbitration proceedings, because the purpose of the power was to provide security for an action *in rem*.

That might change when, eventually, section 26 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 came into force.

In the present case, by pursuing proceedings both *in rem* and by invoking the arbitration proceedings in their *ex parte* application for the warrant of arrest, the appellants had abused the process of the court.

It followed that, while the declaration granted by Mr Justice Sheen had been wrong, the Court of Appeal would not, in its discretion, interfere with the judge's order discharging the undertaking from the respondents' P & I Club.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Richards Butler & Co.

Crystal conceded that if the appellant could show that the reports were privileged, a section 268 order could not extend to them.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies had concluded, *inter alia*, that the reports had been commissioned for a dual purpose and that the evidence showed that the dominant purpose had been to find out the cause of the fire and not for litigation. But he appeared to have misinterpreted the effect of the relevant authorities on the facts.

In *Grant v Downs* ([1976] 135 CLR 674, 677) Chief Justice Barwick had held that a document would be privileged if it had been brought into existence for the "dominant purpose" of obtaining legal advice or aid in litigation, such litigation being a reasonable prospect at that time.

In *Waugh v British Railways Board* ([1980] AC 521, 544) Lord Edmund-Davies, having adopted that test, continued: "Dominant purpose, then... should now be declared by this House to be the touchstone. It is less stringent than 'sole' purpose..."

Thus, the fact that the person who produced or commissioned the document had in mind other uses would not preclude privilege providing it had had the requisite "dominant" purpose.

That was not inconsistent with an earlier decision of the House of Lords in *Alfred Crompton Amusement Machines Ltd v Customs & Excise Commissioners* ([1974] AC 405, 432) where Lord Cross of

Chelsea had described the two purposes for which the documents there concerned had been produced as forming a "single wider purpose".

Applying those tests to the present case, the judge had concluded that the main purpose of the reports had been to ascertain the cause of the fire, while obtaining legal advice in the event of litigation had only been a secondary purpose.

His Lordship was unable to agree that such a duality of purpose had existed. The only reason for discovering the cause of the fire was to ascertain whether there had been fraud. It was clear that if the claim was persisted in, litigation would follow.

Knowing the cause of the fire was of no use on its own: the insurers were not pursuing an academic interest in the possibilities of spontaneous combustion. It was incontrovertible that the insurers had formed a view early on in the dispute that litigation was probable.

Since the documents were, in his Lordship's opinion, therefore privileged, and since it was unlikely that the appellant would be able on examination to provide any information about the fire which did not spring from those reports, his Lordship would exercise his discretion to quash the whole of the section 268 order.

Lord Justice Robert Goff agreed. Solicitors: Lawrence Messer & Co; Heald & Lawson.

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Means inquiry before binding over

Regina v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Boulding

It was a breach of the rules of natural justice for a court to bind an accused person over in anything greater than a trivial sum without looking at his means and allowing him to make representations as to the amount of the recognizance.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court with Mr Justice Taylor on December 12, so held, granting an application by Mr Stephen Boulding for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash an order of the Central Criminal Court on January 19, on appeal from the Mansion House Justices, binding him over to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for two years in the sum of £500.

HIS LORDSHIP said although, following the decision in *R v Working Justices, Ex parte Gossage* ([1973] QB 446), there was no general obligation on a court to allow a defendant, even if acquitted, an opportunity to make representations before binding him over, it was impossible to see how it could arrive at a proper and suitable figure for the recognizance in the absence of any information as to the defendant's means.

Accordingly, unless the amount of the recognizance was trivial, it was a denial of natural justice not to inquire into the defendant's means before imposing the recognizance as the imposition of an unduly large recognizance could work very great injustice to the defendant.

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Delay by prosecution

Regina v Guildhall Justices, Ex parte Carson-Selman

Regina v Guildhall Justices, Ex parte Knight

Regina v Guildhall Justices, Ex parte Pimm

In an extreme case where the prosecution's delay in serving committal papers and bringing on a committal hearing had been truly excessive, examining justices did have power on a further application for an adjournment and remand to require the prosecution to disclose whether they had a case to present which favoured being a *prima facie* case against the defendant, on pain of having the charges dismissed.

No bottle trade mark

In re Coca-Cola Company's Application

A Coca-Cola bottle was not a trade mark, Mr Justice Falconer held in the Chancery Division on December 14, on applications by the Coca-Cola Co to register as a trade mark under section 68 (1) of the

Trade Marks Act 1938 the "distinctive shape and appearance" of their bottles. The section defined a mark as including "a device, heading, label, ticket, name, signature, word, letter, numeral, or any combination thereof" but did not seem to cover "a container".

Mr Michael Turner, QC and Mr Patrick Twigg for the appellant, Mr Patrick Crystal and Mr Richard Adkins for the liquidator.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that the dispute had arisen to consequence of a fire which had broken out at the premises of Highgrade Traders Ltd on June 30, 1980. Sidney Balcombe & Co, fire assessors had submitted a claim against the insurers on behalf of the company on July 31, 1980.

The insurers' solicitors had considered that litigation might ensue and had asked the insurers to obtain a fully detailed report. Thereafter, three reports had been compiled for the insurers by respectively, (1) Pycroft & Arnold, loss adjusters, on September 2, 1980; (2) Hoeg, Baltimore & Co, chartered accountants, on February 13, 1981; and (3) Dr J H Burgoyne & Partners, specialist fire investigators, on February 26, 1981.

On April 27, 1981, the insurers had written to the company stating that as they were satisfied that the fire had been deliberately and fraudulently started, they were not prepared to meet the claim.

In July 1981, it was resolved that the company be wound up voluntarily and Mr Phillips was appointed liquidator. In pursuance of his duty to the creditors, he applied for a section 268 order against the insurers to be wound up voluntarily and Mr Phillips was appointed liquidator. In pursuance of his duty to the creditors, he applied for a section 268 order against the insurers to be wound up voluntarily and Mr Phillips was appointed liquidator.

On behalf of the liquidator, Mr



Other presents pale beside it.

NOTHING ELSE MEASURES UP TO JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL



هكذا من الأصل

Spurs gain nearly £1m from sponsors
Let me get on with my job - Pleat
Trebble for Priest in youth win
Schools X...

Spurs gain nearly £1/2m from sponsors

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday announced a £25,000 sponsorship deal with Holsten Distribution Limited until the end of the 1985/86 season.

Let me get on with my job - Pleat

Luton manager David Pleat yesterday pleaded to be left to get on with his job at Kenilworth Road after the speculation linking him with Arsenal manager.

Treble for Priest in Youth win

The FA Youth XI gave a sparkling performance of skilful football at the Bank of England grounds in London.

Public Schools XI... FA Youth XI

The Public Schools XI came back with a win against the FA Youth XI in a match that was a real test of their skills.

Early in the second half when... Holders drawn away

Telford United will begin their defence of the FA Trophy with a first round tie against Macclesfield.

Palace debt paid

A petition seeking the compulsory winding-up of Crystal Palace Football and Athletic Club was dismissed by court yesterday.

Honouring Raul

Rio de Janeiro (AP) - Some of the greatest names in Brazilian football began to gather here yesterday to honour the veteran Brazilian goalkeeper.

Palace debt paid

A petition seeking the compulsory winding-up of Crystal Palace Football and Athletic Club was dismissed by court yesterday.

Whelan out of Liverpool side for Milk Cup encounter

Ronnie Whelan, the Liverpool player who scored the winning goal in last season's Milk Cup final, could miss tonight's fourth round match to the same competition against Birmingham City.

Aberdeen on flight of fancy

Aberdeen are ready tonight to take off on a football flight of fancy. At Pittodrie the side who have already been hailed to a poll conducted by France's leading sports magazine as "the best team in Europe's line up against Hamburg".

Bearzot and Allodi in clash

UEFA's inept decision to let Internazionale off the hook last week over Apollonio Konijevburg's alleged attempt to bribe the Groningen club's manager, had an interesting effect on Florence.

Results from overseas leagues

At this stage, the Schools produced their best football. Their games were more accurate and they tested the FA's defence.

Going up: Tim Burford, of England, taking the strain in the squat lift competition at the first world junior powerlifting championships at Miami Beach.



being injured in a tackle with Liverpool's Graeme Souness at Anfield on Saturday. O'Neill, who was carried off after the incident, is unlikely to be fit until the New Year.

going Aberdeen's way. For example they have shown themselves to be the season's outstanding team with a run of 15 games without defeat.

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Going up: Tim Burford, of England, taking the strain in the squat lift competition at the first world junior powerlifting championships at Miami Beach.

forward Mike Flanagan, has been transfer-listed at his own request. Flanagan, who won Rangers £200,000 three years ago, has been concerned at the lack of chances for him in the first team squad having featured in only five times this season.

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EQUESTRIANISM



Robert Smith on Team Sanyo Alabama head for second place (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Tyteca beats ambitious rivals

A fast and stylish round by Fordi Tyteca on T Soulaty gave the Belgian rider a well-earned victory in yesterday afternoon's Norwich Union Christmas Cake Stakes at the Olympia International Show Jumping Championships.

Shortcomings for spectators at Winter Olympics

Hazards in store at Sarajevo

Sarajevo (AP) - The wailing song of a muezzin cut through the fog, calling Muslims to evening prayer. Drivers hooted in frustration as two cars blocked a narrow street while their owners argued over bent bumpers.

Only Kenya's best will do

OLYMPIC GAMES: There will be no joyriders in Kenya's team for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, HOCKEY, and other sports, listing scores and results from various leagues.

BASKETBALL

Kingston dismiss two US players

American players come and go nowhere more so, it seems, than Kingston. The first division club, who parted company with two players from the United States last season, have dismissed two more.

Latest European snow reports

Table with columns for location, depth, conditions, and weather, providing snow reports from various European regions.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for RACKETS, listing names, scores, and results from various racket sports events.

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New rules proposed for GPs' deputies

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

Strict new controls over deputizing services and the use of family doctors can make of them to cover night and weekend calls were proposed yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Health.

The changes come after allegations that some deputizing services are substandard and that some family doctors have been making use of the services to take all their night and weekend work.

Under the new rules, doctors in partnerships of three or more would be expected to cover each other's night calls, without recourse to deputizing services. Single-handed doctors, and partnerships of two, would be allowed to display them for a maximum of three nights a week.

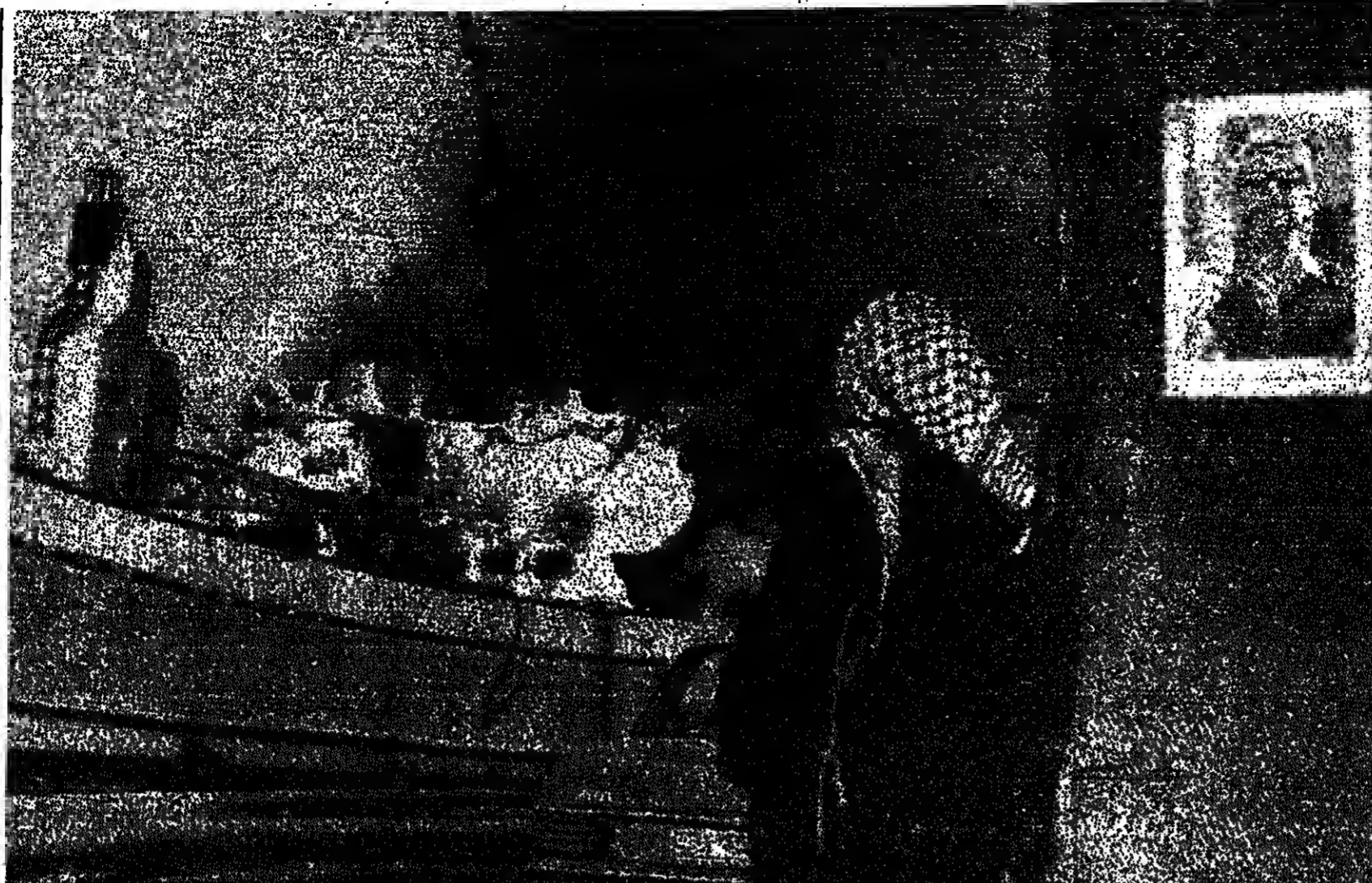
The amount of use could be varied to suit local circumstances and the problems of individual doctors, but regular random checks would be made and excessive use would normally be disciplinary matter, the draft circular on the new rules says.

The proposals were greeted as "a great step forward" by Mr Christopher Hawkins, Conservative MP for High Beak, who has been campaigning for tougher controls, but Mr Michael Lowe, secretary of the British Medical Association's advisory committee on deputizing services, said that they were "astounding".

If the new rules were enforced, he said, deputizing services would simply shut down because they would cease to be viable, and general practice in inner cities would collapse.

Many single handed general practitioners in inner cities were elderly and could not cope with being on call four nights a week. "It is just not reasonable to expect doctors to be disturbed through the night and expect them to be able to cope with their patients properly in the morning," he said.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the General Medical Services Committee, said that it made "no sense" to force excessive hours on doctors when society was increasingly concerned that important decisions should not be taken by people who were over-tired.



Burnt out case: A PLO fighter watching the cargo ship My Charm blazing in Tripoli harbour. Mr Arafat looks on from a poster.

Arafat ready for evacuation

Continued from page 1

Which raised the little matter of my My Charm. The ship, whose port of registry, Limassol, can still be discerned in the burnt stern paintwork, sailed boldly into Tripoli on Sunday night. Port workers - who are few enough these days but loquacious none the less - suggested that the freighter had docked for the specific purpose of picking up all those heavy guns which Mr Arafat had promised to give to the police.

An emphatic denial came from the PLO leader, although several large trucks can be seen around Tripoli with sacks of rockets all neatly packaged, as if they were about to be transported somewhere.

In human terms, Israel's latest pin-prick harassment of the PLO has done little more than raise fears among the civilian population of Tripoli, and increase the anguish of the older PLO men, who are forced to leave their families in Tripoli, just as many of their colleagues did in Sabra and

Chatila in the summer of last year.

"I said goodbye to my family yesterday," a Palestinian in his late forties said yesterday, as he stood by the harbour wall leaning on a stick. "Then I said goodbye to them today. And now I shall have to do the same again tomorrow."

Other, younger Palestinians sat atop mobile anti-aircraft guns beside the port, waiting for the Israeli gunboats to reappear on the horizon. The sea remained a flat calm, enlivened only by the narrow Moudaourra islands in Tripoli sound.

At dusk, two blue-funnelled tugboats puttered into the wreckage of the harbour to look for empty berths for the Greek ships, which - so it was rumoured - would arrive at dawn.

The PLO were also worried yesterday that the Israelis might decide to stage air strikes on Tripoli, after their jets had bombed the towns of Bhamdoun and Aley in the Chouf mountains east of Beirut. The Syrians claimed later

that the Israelis had hit one of the Army positions behind Bhamdoun, and had also struck a hospital used by leftist militias.

An Israeli spokesman at the Israeli liaison office north of Beirut claimed that the planes had bombed positions held by Colonel Abu Moussa's Palestinians. Mr Arafat's rivals within the PLO. No comment was made about this in Tripoli; nor was any sympathy vouchsafed for the Colonel's men.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan has said that the US Marines and other troops of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Beirut could be withdrawn next year if Syria gave an assurance that it would pull out its forces from Lebanon and "start the process".

Israelis blamed: The White House yesterday blamed the Israelis for imposing the evacuation of the PLO from Tripoli, and called on them to stop blocking the Palestinians' departure.

Israeli pressure, page 5
Spectrum, page 8

Break with tradition at Marks & Spencer

Continued from page 1

with many new lines. Lord Sieff engagingly admits to having made mistakes but argues that being able to correct some of them gives even more scope for progress.

It was Lord Sieff who built up the company's food side, in 1955, introducing Britons to quality fresh and convenience foods. The food business now accounts for 38 per cent of Marks & Spencer turnover.

When Lord Rayner took over as chief executive earlier this year, Lord Sieff assured company veterans that the family tradition would continue. Mr Salisse said yesterday: "So it has proved. He is, after all, virtually one of the family. There will be change, inevitably, but it will be gradual."

Lord Rayner, a big jolly man of 57, joined Marks & Spencer in 1953, became a director in 1968 and joint managing

director in 1973. He was made joint vice-chairman last year.

But he caused the biggest stir when in 1979 he became the Prime Minister's adviser on improving Whitehall efficiency. By the end of last year when he finished that job - he was made a life peer in the 1983 New Year's Honours - he had left an indelible mark on many Whitehall departments.

Now, after nine months as chief executive, the Rayner strategy for Marks & Spencer is starting to emerge. He is naturally looking for any sign of inefficiency in the company's empire of 262 stores in Britain and is also looking for continued growth abroad.

The company now has eight stores in the EEC, and exports St Michael goods to 30 countries.

There are nearly 200 stores in Canada and the United States, with probably the next expansion areas, although there are no plans for that yet.

Frank Johnson in the Commons Despair hangs over the Chamber

Mr Joh Biffen, the Leader of the House, was being questioned yesterday by the Labour back benches, Mr Tam Dalyell, about leaked secret Whitehall documents when he suddenly made a disclosure about Mr Dalyell.

"As to secrets, I think the House should note that many years ago I sponsored the hon member to be chairman of the Cambridge University Conservative Association," Mr Biffen observed, in that amiable way of his. Mr Dalyell is that tall, slightly wild-eyed, plummy-voiced Scot of gentle birth and good English education who is interested in all known conspiracies.

On the subject for example, of why we sank the Argentine warship, *General Belgrano*, he has shaken off all vestiges of his Conservative past and is an ordinary, respectable, extremist. The fact that he was once a Conservative has long been well known. It has always been ascribed to youthful high spirits.

His membership of the party has also to be seen in the context of the Cambridge of the early 1950s: that despairing when young idealists believed that, with the seemingly unstoppable rise of R. A. Butler, conservatism offered the only hope of a seat in Parliament.

What is new about the Biffen testimony however, is the revelation of how significant Dalyell was within the Conservative apparatus set up in Cambridge during those morally confused times.

It is clear that Mr Dalyell was a much more important agent than has hitherto been supposed. He was in the social circle of the young Mr Biffen, and he was sufficiently powerful to be nominated for the Cambridge University Conservative Association chairmanship itself.

No doubt his defence is that, like no other Old Etonian who in later life became socialist or progressive of one kind or another, he became more extreme once he faced up to the responsibilities of a career.

But it all left a lot of questions unanswered. At what point did he leave the party? To what extent is he still sympathetic to the bourgeois ideology with which the party indoctrinated him? There are grounds for an independent inquiry.

But Mr Biffen's revelation had made us all smile. And smiles were welcome during this particular question time. For we all knew what was coming. And what was coming was the statement by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

These statements after terrible events tell us little that we do not know already. Mr Brittan described the events at Harrods once again. He paid his respects, and vowed that the terrorists would not profit from this deed. Mr Gerald Kaufman, the chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, shared those sentiments on behalf of his party. Mr Brittan stressed questions from all sides, certain despair hung over the chamber.

This is the despair of people who do not know what to do next. As such it affects a majority on both sides of the chamber, but not the minorities in the House who believe they do know what to do.

These include those on the Labour left who believe that the answer is to move towards a united Ireland, though in some indefinite way that does not bring on the massacre of the very Catholics whose cause they espouse.

There are also the Unionists, including Mr Enoch Powell; some Tories; Dr Ian Paisley. For them the answer is greater "security." But that too is never wholly defined.

But the majority yesterday betrayed no such certitude. In all the questioning only a few lingered in the memory. Mr John Hume of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that as an Irishman he was ashamed and that, if done, who planted that bomb-bomb Irish patriots, "then God save Ireland."

The Conservative, Mr Ivan Lawrence, said the Government should ensure that the details of the crime "receives the widest possible circulation in the United States."

What was missing from Mr Brittan and from Mr James Prior, is a sense that the Government knows how to wage the undaunted fight against terrorism which these ministers promise. Their strategy at the moment seems to be that the British should carry on shopping. The Blitz has been evoked. But in the Blitz our leaders sought allies and devised offensives.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the National Playing Fields Association, attends a Royal Gala performance of "Aladdin" at the Shaftesbury Theatre, WC2, 7.35.

The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal Jubilee Trusts and President of the Prince's Trusts, visits Greater Manchester, at 11.30 His Royal Highness visits J.E.L. Energy Conservation Service, Ltd.

at Bramhall Moor Industrial Park, Stockport, followed by a visit to the West Indian Sports Social Club and Community Centre, 2.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, Patron of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, attends a Carol Concert in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, in aid of the fund, 5.55.

The Princess of Wales opens the New Extra Care Centre at the Abbeyfield Dinning House, Swinbourne Grove, Withington, Manchester, 3.30.

Princess Anne attends the Christmas celebration in Westminster Cathedral, 6.55.

Princess Margaret attends the premiere of "The Wind in the Willows", at the ABC Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, of which Her Royal Highness is President, 5.50.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attends The Observer Christmas Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 7.20.

Ron Goodwin Christmas Show, with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Guildhall, Portsmouth, 7.30

Concert with Norwich Citadel Band, St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich, 7.30

Music

Antique and Collectors Fair, Beaufort Hotel, Walcot Street, Bath, 11 to 8.30

Works by Richard Trutt, Tom McArthur, Jill Hutchings, Margaret Lewis, Pamela Berry and Richard Constable, Blakz Gallery, Georges Lane, Creweke, Dorset; Mon to Sat 10 to 4 (ends today).

Exhibitions in progress
Home Sweet Home - an exhibition of Victorian Home Life, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30 (ends Feb 26).

South Yorkshire Open Art Exhibition, Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire, Tues to 5.30, Wed to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Mon (ends Jan 8).

Words and Images from the Lake District Collier Gallery, University of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5 (ends Thurs).

Captains of Commerce: New Irish Ceramics; Tom Carr, retrospective; Aspects of Africa; four simultaneous exhibitions at the Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed 24 to 27 Dec inclusive (ends Dec 31).

Anniversaries
Births: John Wilson Croker, politician and essayist, Galway, 1780; Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, 1939-41, 1949-66, Jopert, Victoria, 1894, Adelaide Park surgeon, died Paris, 1990.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Health and Social Security Bill, second reading; Lords (2.30): Roads (Scotland) Bill, committee. Amusement Machines Bill, committee.

Snow reports
The Times service of snow reports, covering skiing conditions at the major European resorts, begins today and will continue until next April. They are published today on page 19.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending Dec 11

- 1 Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 10.30m
- 2 Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 10.30m
- 3 This is Your Life, Thames, 14.05m
- 4 Top of the Pops, ITV, 12.05m
- 5 Up the Elephant & Round The Castle, Thames, 14.25m
- 6 Wilson's of St. Trinians, 10.05m
- 7 Give us a Clue, Thames, 13.20m
- 8 Crossroads (Tue), Central, 12.00m
- 9 The Long View, ITV, 12.05m
- 10 Family Fortunes, Central, 12.35m

- 1 The Two Ronnies, 13.05m
- 2 West Endwards Late Late Breakfast Show, 12.15m
- 3 Dales, 11.00m
- 4 Wilson's of St. Trinians, 10.05m
- 5 Only Fools & Horses, 10.70m
- 6 Top of the Pops, 10.55m
- 7 Bergerac, 10.35m
- 8 Sports Review of the Year, 10.30m
- 9 The Long View, 12.05m
- 10 Terry & June, 9.55m

- 1 The Bob Monkhouse Show, 6.50m
- 2 Match of the Day, 10.05m
- 3 The Natural World, 3.30m
- 4 The Natural World, 2.30m
- 5 The Outdoors, 3.40m
- 6 Match of the Day, 3.35m
- 7 The Natural World, 1.50m
- 8 Pictures of Health, 1.50m
- 9 The World at War, 1.50m
- 10 American Football, 1.35m

- 1 The Paul Hogan Show, 2.55m
- 2 Good and Bad at Games, 2.55m
- 3 Late, Night and Centre, 2.40m
- 4 Sports Review of the Year, 1.50m
- 5 Brookside (Tue), 1.50m
- 6 Pictures of Health, 1.50m
- 7 The World at War, 1.50m
- 8 The World at War, 1.50m
- 9 American Football, 1.35m
- 10 American Football, 1.35m

Breakfast (television): The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (with the number of people who viewed for at least eight minutes).

SBC 1: Breakfast Times: Mon to Fri, 1.5m (2.2m).

TV: Good Morning Britain: Mon-Fri, 1.2m (2.0m); Sat, 1.2m (2.0m).

Advertisers' Audience Research Board.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Bills	Sells
Australia \$	1.69	1.59
Austria Sch	28.25	27.25
Belgium Fr	84.09	80.00
Canada \$	1.53	1.25
Denmark Kr	14.74	14.04
Finland Mk	8.71	8.31
France Fr	12.32	11.82
Germany DM	4.06	3.87
Greece Dr	160.00	150.00
Hongkong \$	11.30	10.70
India Ru	1.25	1.25
Italy Lira	2450.00	2340.00
Japan Yen	250.00	332.00
Netherlands Gld	4.58	4.35
Norway Kr	11.52	10.92
Portugal Esc	194.00	184.00
Spain Ptas	162	152
Spain Ptas	231.00	221.00
Sweden Kr	12.00	11.40
Switzerland Fr	3.26	3.09
USA \$	1.46	1.41
Yugoslavia Dnr	216.00	206.00

Retail Price Index 341.9
London: The FT Index closed 2.8 up at 762.1

Roads

Midlands A10: Traffic signals at Little Port and on Cambridge to Royston road at Hauxton. B4194: Closed between Stourport and Bledley. A6: Traffic signals at Belper, Derbyshire.

Wales and West A417: Delays, diversions on old A40, St Oswalds Road, Gloucester. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across Severn Bridge affecting both carriageways. A303: Temporary lights on Wincanton-Ilminster road at Huttox and Sparkford; also Seavington and Ilminster.

North: A66: Single-line traffic and lights on approaches to bridge at Eden Lodge, north-west of Appleby, Cumbria. A66: Single-line traffic and lights on approaches to bridge at Farnworth closed car junction with Gladstone Road. A182: Lane restrictions along Huttox Road, Houghton, Tyne and Wear.

Scotland: A84: Intermittent traffic control at Laurence Croft, Stirling. A9: Intermittent traffic control in Causeway Head Road, Stirling. A96: Traffic control 3 miles east of Forres.

Information supplied by A.A.

The papers

The Daily Mirror asks whether the CBI is aiming to break up the happy home with its defence of the company taking a two week break for Christmas. It points to an insurance company estimate that the average British Housewife (Oxford), two children's works 9 1/2 hours a week makes 21 beds, cooks and washes up for 28 breakfasts and dinners, and washes and irons two tubs of dirty clothes.

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'Shoplifters' counsel

Christmas is one of the peak periods for shoplifting; this year, an organization formed to help those accused of such offences is just getting into its stride. It calls itself Crisis Counselling for Alleged Shoplifters and Offers moral support and practical advice to those who may feel they have been wrongly accused. Cases involving children are especially welcome. CCAS is at 39, Brockley Avenue, Stanmore, Middx, Tel. 01-202 5787, 958 8859 (after 7pm) or 346 2182 (messages only).

Weather

Pressure will remain low near Britain with troughs of low pressure crossing some districts.

6am to midnight

London, East Anglia, E, W Midlands: Mostly dry, sunny or clear intervals, outbreaks of rain later; winds S to SE light to moderate; max temp 7 to 8C (45 to 46F).

SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny intervals, showers, with longer outbreaks of rain developing; winds SW backing SE for a time, moderate to fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

E, NW, central N, NE England, Borders: Mostly dry, sunny or clear intervals; winds mainly S light to moderate; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, S Scotland: Scattered showers, sunny or clear intervals; wind SW light to moderate; max temp 7 to 8C (45 to 46F).

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, Angus: Rain slowly clearing, bright intervals; rain at times, wind NE fresh locally strong; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, rain at times, wind NE fresh locally strong; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Northern Ireland: Rain at first, bright or clear intervals developing; wind SE at first, becoming variable; light; max temp 7C (45F).

For tomorrow and Thursday: continuing unsettled with near normal temperatures.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea; Straits of Dover; W fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough. English Channel (E): Wind S or SW strong to gale, showers; sea rough or very rough. S. Georgia's Channel: Wind SE moderate to fresh becoming variable; sea slight. Irish Sea: wind SE fresh decreasing moderate, sea slight or moderate.

Sun rises: Sun sets: 9.03am 3.53pm
Moon rises: Moon sets: 4.10pm 8.55am
Full Moon: 2.03am

Lighting-up time

London 4.23 pm to 7.34 am
Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.40 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 6.12 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.23 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.46 am

Yesterday

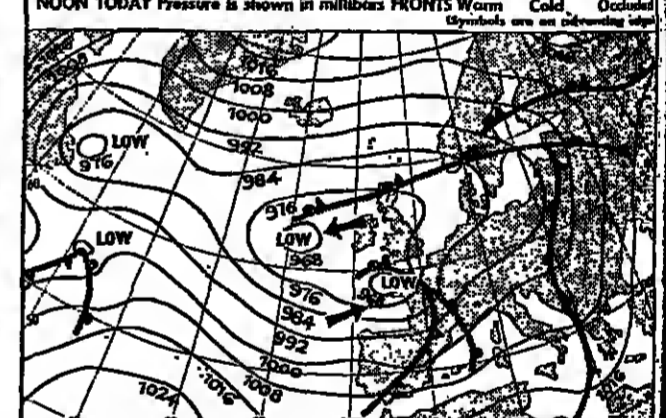
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; l, light; r, rain; s, sun.

London
Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 0 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 5.0C (41F); Humidity: 8 pm, 81%; Bar: 1013.8; Wind: 10 mph; Rain: 29.5mm; Sun: 0.5 hours; Visibility: 1000m; Cloud: 2-35%

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Eastbourne, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: Aberdeen, 4C (39F); highest night temp: Garmouth, 2.0F; lowest night temp: Garmouth, 2.0F.

NOON TODAY



High tides

Location	AM	HT	PM
London Bridge	11.44	12.25	1.19
Aberdeen	12.25	1.19	1.43
Abercromby	7.03	13.0	1.28
Belfast	5.40	11.5	1.28
Cullinstown	6.48	12.0	1.28
Drogheda	5.40	11.5	1.48
Dunfermline	11.44	12.25	1.19
Falmouth	5.10	11.5	1.28
Glasgow	12.24	1.21	1.43
Harwich	11.44	12.25	1.19
Holyhead	10.09	10.50	1.28
Inverness	11.05	11.7	1.28
Scarborough	5.44	11.5	1.28
Shetland	2.18	10.5	1.28
Southampton	11.05	11.7	1.28
Swansea	9.17	2.5	1.43
Wexford	11.44	12.25	1.19
Wolverhampton	11.44	12.25	1.19
York	11.44	12.25	1.19

Around Britain

Location	Sun	Rain	Mix	Sun	Rain	Mix
Scarborough	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5
Birmingham	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5
Cardiff	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5
Edinburgh	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5
Glasgow	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5
London	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5
Manchester	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5
Newcastle	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5
Nottingham	0.5	1.0				